



**Summertime  
reading  
with coach  
Nancy**

**FRANK**



FRANK BY NAME, FRANK BY NATURE



**Rick Howe on Palango:  
'Mainstream media  
need to wake up!'**

**Brink's stink keeps growing**

**Wayne Hankey's  
Tickle Trunk trinkets**

**How Saint  
Alexa  
doled out  
her fortune**



**Frank's pal  
Marc Patrone  
goes berserk**

**C.B. Councillor  
Frank Elman's  
land grab feud**

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# The media & the murders

## COMMENT

By Rick Howe

Most **Nova Scotians** today know the basics of what transpired April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 when something snapped in the mind of **Dartmouth** dentist **Gabriel Wortman**, who, dressed as an **RCMP** officer and driving a replica RCMP vehicle, launched a two day murderous rampage that left 22 Nova Scotians and one unborn child dead and the gunman himself killed by the RCMP.

It was the worst mass killing in **Canadian** history and it happened here at home. You might think getting the full story behind what happened would be a priority for the mainstream media. Sadly that has not been the case.

Even as the **Mass Casualty Commission** promises to get to the truth of what happened that tragic weekend, many Nova Scotians remain skeptical. There are some who believe the Commission is party to a cover-up and there never was any intention to reveal the whole truth about the actions of Gabriel Wortman and Canada's national police force, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Critics believe this has become an effort to deflect from the relationship between them. Why isn't Wortman's criminal record and his association with a criminal motorcycle gang not part of the MCC inquiry? The critics believe there is an effort to cover-up the RCMP's involvement or relationship with Wortman and his relationship with the **Hells Angels**. Was Gabriel Wortman a confidential police informant? Yet there is little effort by the mainstream media to get to the real story, beyond the pablum fed to them by the RCMP and the MCC.

I'll give the **Chronicle Herald** a thumbs up for facts unearthed by its reporters in the thousands of documents dumped online by the Commission, seemingly an effort to bury pertinent details. The **CBC's Elizabeth McMillan** has, through freedom of information requests, also revealed new details. However, it stops there.

The mainstream Nova Scotia media need to wake up to the very real possibilities this is much more than just one man's two day killing

spree. Serious questions need to be asked and revealed about events leading up to that weekend, the April weekend itself and the days and weeks following the murders. Where is **CTV's Rick Grant** when you need him?

Sadly, those days of investigative reporters breaking news stories are long gone. **Halifax's** all-news talk station has no reporters. When was the last time CTV, CBC or **Global** broke a major story? CTV for example, has done a reasonable job reporting details from the testimony before the Mass Inquiry Commission, but in the days following the mass killings, the mainstream media continued to accept the narrative presented by the RCMP even as details were few, including no accurate account of the number of people killed. Radio, television and newspaper reports often included verbatim RCMP news releases. It was left to the alternative media to carry the ball.

Thanks to online sites like **Little Grey Cells** and quasi-news organizations like the **Halifax Examiner**, and especially **Frank Magazine**, we began getting details not provided by the RCMP. We were beginning to realize the Mounties were holding key facts from the public.

Frank's release of the 911 calls from Wortman's victims and video from his take-down at the **Big Stop** in **Enfield** were major scoops. And Frank's **Paul Palango** has been ruthless in revealing more details about Wortman, his criminal record and his association with motorcycle gangs and police. He has been a thorn in the side of the RCMP to the point where the RCMP's media co-ordinator referred to Palango as "an asshole." He alone has kept this story fresh in the minds who follow alternative media.

Then there's the **Lisa Banfield** story. Wortman's long-time companion was indeed a victim of abuse, but the MCC's decision not to allow cross examination by lawyers for his victims because she was a victim was more evidence for those screaming cover-up. Any effort to question her about her story the night the massacres began was denied.

Why? She is a key witness who could pro-

vide more details about what might have set Wortman off and her story about escaping handcuffs while locked in the gunman's RCMP replica police cruiser and spending the night huddled inside a log in the woods is sketchy at best. And again it is only Frank and Paul Palango who are asking questions about her claims. The Examiner's **Tim Bousquet** bought into the MCC's version of events and recently told a critic to "fuck off."

Palango told me quite emphatically this is a story about the failure of police, but he thinks the mainstream media has lost interest. Palango says he has no doubt a cover-up is underway. He got support for his claims from an unlikely source, retired CTV anchor **Steve Murphy**. In two commentaries Murphy agreed there is more to this story than we are being told and suggested the so called conspiracy theorists were on the right track. Murphy also said Lisa Banfield should have been cross-examined by family lawyers. Outside of his comments, it has been crickets from the mainstream media.

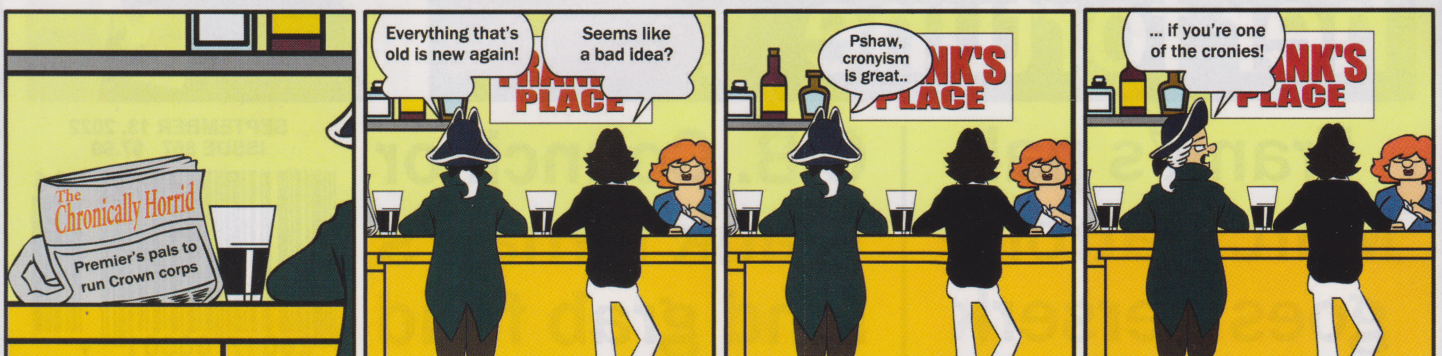
"There is no longer a sense of pursuit," Palango told me.

"It's like the instinct had been bred out of reporters. No one is doing anything."

So many questions need answers. Why did the Mounties call for help from the RCMP in **New Brunswick**? Why not seek aid from nearby police in **Truro** or **Amherst**? Why were highway blockades not set up? Why was a man with known ties to the Hells Angels and a neighbour and a friend of Wortman's evacuated with his father and mother from their home in **Portapique** while four children whose parents had just been murdered huddled in one home for hours? Why was **Constable Heidi Stephenson**, basically a traffic cop, looking for a killer alone in her police car? Was the gunman a police confidential informant? What was Gabriel Wortman's connection to the Hells Angels?

The truth is out there. But is the Nova Scotia media up to the task of unravelling the full story behind this terrible tragedy? Stay tuned. There's clearly a lot more to learn.

[tips@frankmagazine.ca](mailto:tips@frankmagazine.ca)



# Summertime & the living is Nancy!

Boy howdy, I can't think of any better way to fill a few pages of the annual **Frankland Dog Days of Summer** edition than to take a few action-packed quotes from a tome that spent several days on the **Toronto Star's Canadian** non-fiction bestseller list this spring!

Without further ado, a few words of (*book jacket summary alert!* — **ed.**) "remarkable candour" from **Live at 5** hostess-turned-self-help guru **Nancy Regan**...

"I once worked with someone who could best be described as a big bundle of negative energy. He put on a great show when the lights and camera came on, but behind the scenes he seemed deeply unhappy. Who else would, after having a warm conversation with one of his 'superiors' in a communal work area, say something disparaging about them the moment they walked away? The first time this happened, I did a double-take. *Did he mean to say that out loud?* Unfortunately, what was startling at first became commonplace and it poisoned our workplace."

— *From Showing Off to Showing Up: An Imposter's Journey from Perfect to Present* by Nancy Regan, **Nimbus Publishing**, pp 80.

"The record will show that Nancy R. was not universally loved within the magical confines of the **ATV Robie Street** studio. No shame there. Who is universally

loved? After all, television is the picture business. One ATVer told me, 'Nancy, you know, she was damn good at reading script and keeping things tight, but she had this holier-than-thou attitude which could grind on you.' A second added, 'She was something of a control freak. She liked to

micro-manage everything... her battles with (**Steve**) **Murphy** and (**Ron**) **Kronstein** were legendary'."

— *Frank 466*, 2005.

"Nancy has always been good at telling other people's stories; she's done a masterful job sharing her own, with authenticity and good humour."

— *From Showing Off to Showing Up: An Imposter's Journey from Perfect to Present*, back cover blurb, **Steve Murphy**.

"Insert text here..."

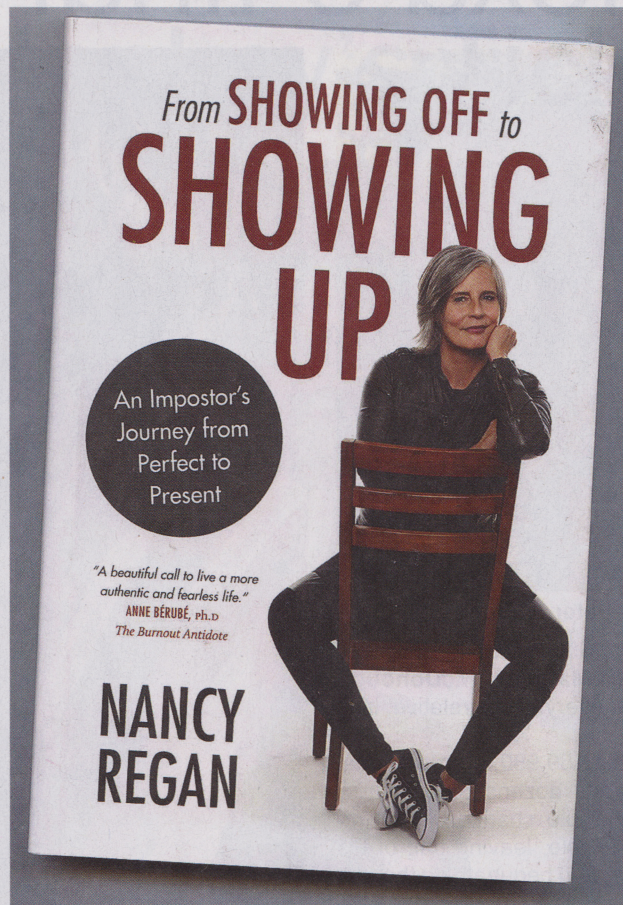
— *From Showing Off to Showing Up: An Imposter's Journey from Perfect to Present* back cover blurb, **Ron Kronstein**.

## Another show about nothing

"When I actually got up the courage to quit, everyone thought I was crazy. Why would I leave a successful, high-profile job? Like any major decision in life, there was a kaleidoscope of reasons, but the great motivator was my need to move away from my mask. Thankfully, some people did understand. I'll always treasure the phone call I got from one friend when he heard the news of my impending departure. 'You're pulling a **Seinfeld!**' he exclaimed. I laughed and asked what he meant. 'You're taking everyone by surprise by leaving when you're at the top of your game'."

— *Ibid*, pp 64.

Continued on Page 14



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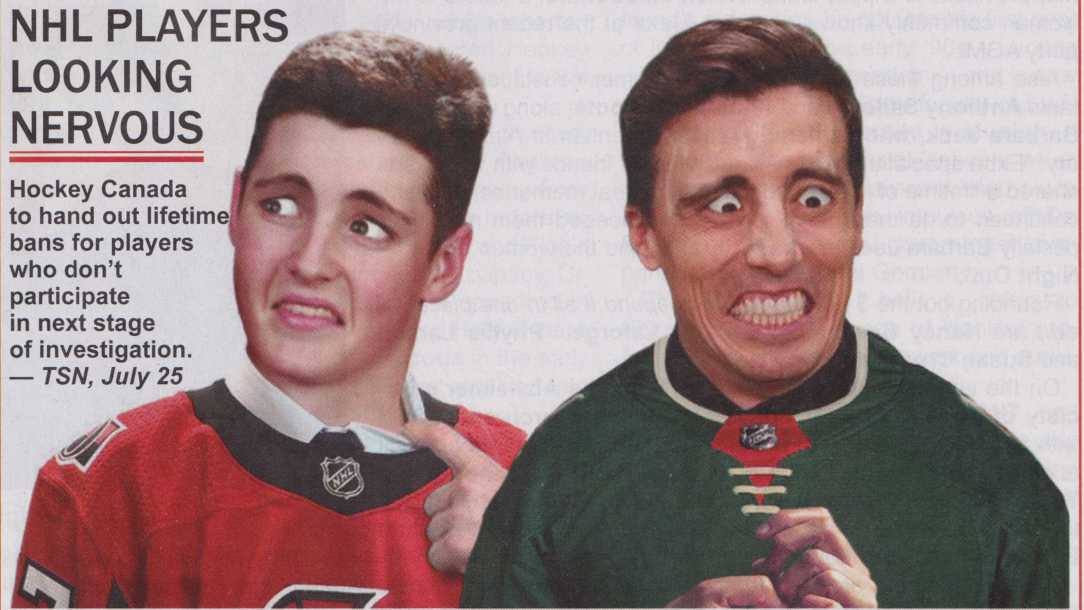
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Canada

## NHL PLAYERS LOOKING NERVOUS

Hockey Canada to hand out lifetime bans for players who don't participate in next stage of investigation.  
— **TSN**, July 25



# Saint Alexa's final wishes

By Bea Quest

Justin and Travis McDonough will realize about a million dollars apiece, give or take, from the estate of their mother, **N-Dipper** high priestess **Alexa McDonough**, who died from **Alzheimer's** in January at the age of 77, according to documents accessed at probate court.

Add to that the \$375,000, give or take, they both will collect from the estate of their father **Peter McDonough**, who died last November at 81, predeceasing his first wife by only two months, and we're starting to talk about some serious money.

But then, considering Travis sold his sports data and training company **Kinduct Technologies** for \$50 million a few years back and Justin is a founding partner with **Matthews McDonough Financial Planning** on **Quinpool Road**, everything's relative, isn't it?

While Alexa's \$2,433,380.37 estate (\$1,459,980.37 in personal property and \$973,500 real property) lists dozens of beneficiaries including \$47,000 split between multiple charities, longtime **McInnes Cooper** lawyer Peter kept it simple, leaving half of his \$1,467,953 estate to his widow **Suzanne**, and bequeathing the rest to his sons.

Alexa's will, dated October 10, 2017, instructs that \$10,000 be set aside for each of her seven grandchildren (**Abbie Jean, Lauchlan, Taylor, Saoirse, Elizabeth, Griffin and Charlie**) in post-secondary educational trusts, although the former president of **Mount Saint Vincent University** directs that "the term 'post-secondary education' is to be very broadly defined."

Gifts of \$1,000 apiece are bequeathed to eight individuals, including her friend **Pamela Whelan**, who co-hosted, along with former provincial N-Dipper leader **Helen MacDonald**, a tribute to the woman commonly known as **Saint Alexa** at the recent provincial party AGM.

Also among those remembered are former constituency assistants **Anthony Salloum** and **Anne-Marie Foote**, along with her pal **Barbara Jack**, who garnered a special mention in Alexa's obituary: "Extra special thanks to Alexa's women friends with whom she shared a lifetime of love, good times and great memories, and who continued to be there for her when she needed them most. Especially Barbara Jack, **Laura Whittaker** and the women of 'Girls' Night Out'."

Rounding out the \$1,000 club (*don't spend it all in one place! — ed.*) are **Nancy Bowes, Marie-Paule Laforge, Phyllis Larsen** and **Susan Croucher**.

On the charitable front, Alexa remembers the **Alzheimer's Society of Nova Scotia, St. Andrew's United Church** and **MSVU** with \$10,000 apiece, while the provincial and federal Dippers split another \$10,000. The **YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth** and **Young Women's Christian Association of Halifax** are entitled to \$2,500 apiece. She bequeaths \$1,000 apiece to the **Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation** and **First Baptist Church**.

The two brothers are named co-executors, along with Pamela Whelan, but she and Travis renounced their roles, leaving Justin



Peter McDonough



Alexa, back in the day, being interviewed by the talented & fragrant Rachel Boomer.



Justin (right) & Travis.

to do the heavy lifting. (Both brothers remain as executors of their father's much simpler estate.)

Continued on Page 11

# Bits & bobs from Wayne Hankey's Tickle Trunk

By Will N. Testament

Beneficiaries of the estate of **Wayne Hankey**, the **King's College** philosopher king and enthusiastic pederast who died earlier this year at the age of 77 facing multiple historical sexual assault charges, are a who's who of the **Department of Classics at Dalhousie University**.

A full inventory has yet to be filed, but preliminary estimates found in **N.S. Probate Court** documents peg the total estate value at **\$856,486** in personal property.

Although the last will and testament names three executors, two of them relinquished their roles leaving **Andrew Griffin**, who is also the largest beneficiary of the estate, to perform the trustee duties alone.

Griffin is a **British** expat who was working toward his PhD in the Dal Classics department when several teenaged male skeletons came clattering from his beloved professor's closet in the winter of 2021.

King's **Humanities** prof **Ian Stewart** and **Rev. Nicholas Hatt**, a former student of Hankey's and now the rector of **Saint George's Round Church in North End Halifax**, were the other named executors.

A former **Dean of Students** at King's, Hatt spoke with enthusiasm about his friend's popularity among students and his pedagogical talents to **Chronicle Herald** reporter **Andrew Rankin** in April of 2021 after **Halifax Regional Police** laid charges involving three victims related to incidents that occurred between 1977 and 1988.

Hankey's predatory proclivities for young male flesh had been well-known on campus for the better part of 50 years, but his predilections reached a wider audience in 1991 when **Frank** blew open the scandal involving a former student, **David Harris** (BA Honours, 1981), who testified in a closed **Anglican** ecclesiastical court proceeding that the librarian and classics professor had been at him throughout his undergraduate studies. Also at the time, my organ committed to record an incident



Wayne Hankey

that occurred in the early 1980s, wherein a security guard had discovered Hankey swimming nude with a male student in the campus pool.

Following that secretive court process, Hankey was defrocked as an Anglican minister and spent three years away from the college, flitting about **Europe** before returning to the lecture halls of Dal and King's with a new appreciation for the papacy. Or, if you rather, the version that appeared in his obituary: "Wayne received **Holy Orders** in the **Diocese of Nova Scotia** in the early seventies and in midlife was received into the **Roman Catholic Church**."

□ □ □

Although it's still unclear what, if any gifts will be realized among beneficiaries considering one of **Wayne John Hankey's** victims filed a claim against the estate one month after he died, alleging Hankey raped him in the late 1970s when he was 14 —

the suit, filed by **Glenn Johnson**, also names **Dalhousie, King's** and the **Anglican Church** — we might as well put the old perv's final wishes on the record for posterity, no?

After his extensive wine collection, thousands of books and hundreds of "Classical and earlier music" CDs are divvied up amongst the more than a dozen various beneficiaries, the rest and residue of the estate is to be divided thusly:

- 50% to executor Griffin.
- 10% apiece to **Dr. Evan King**, **Dr. James Richardson Bryson** and **Phineas Steward**.
- 5% apiece to **Dr. Kiyo Masui**, **Heinrich Fisher**, **Jacob Glover** and **Dr. Eli Diamond**.

King is a native of **Shelburne** and former student of Hankey's who returned to teach at Dal and King's for three years before hopping across the pond to take up a position as a post-doctoral fellow at the **University College of Dublin**.

Bryson is the son of Hankey's good pal, **N.S. Court of Appeals Justice Peter Bryson**. Both father and son learned at the feet of Hankey. While Dad went off to do his lawyerin' thing — and later stood at his

friend's side when he got into his first spot of legal bother in the early '90s — young James went all-in on academia, and is now on the **Catholic Theology** faculty of **Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich**. It was from that vantagepoint last year when Dr. Bryson wrote a widely-circulated piece about the authoritarian impulses of **Dr. Strang** and the **Liberal** government comparing both to, er, **Nazi Germany**.

Phineas Steward, I believe, refers to **Phineas Stewart**, the son of Hankey professorial colleague **Ian Stewart** and a musician who lives in **Montreal**.

Masui is a physics prof at **MIT** and breathes rather rarefied air as the only Hankey blood relative to receive anything other than a few dusty old books, scratched CDs or bottles of grape juice. He's the son of **Kathleen Masui of Porter's Lake**, Hankey's sister.

Continued on next page



Andrew Griffin (left), executor and largest beneficiary, as an undergraduate. King's Humanities prof Ian Stewart (centre) and Rev. Nicholas Hatt, a former student of Hankey's, were the other named executors.

#### Hankey, from previous page

Heinrich Fisher, I believe, refers to Hendrik "Henk" Fisher, who has held various roles over the years at the King's Chapel and the Capella Regalis Men and Boy's Choir, of which Hankey was a stalwart supporter.

Along with Henk's 5%, Hankey makes a special point of releasing his friend from "any outstanding debts or obligations owed to me," and at another point in the document allows that he "may keep all my possessions he now has and is forgiven any debts he owes me."

Glover studied under Hankey and practised law for 10 minutes, while Diamond is a professor in the Dal Classics department.

"All my property other than that which is held in my bank or investment accounts at **Scotiabank** is found in my apartment at **401-2 Ramsgate Lane** (with a separately rented storage closet on the same floor), in my of-



10% apiece goes to Evan King (left), James Richardson Bryson (above), and Phineas Stewart, pictured right as a 10th Grader in 2016.



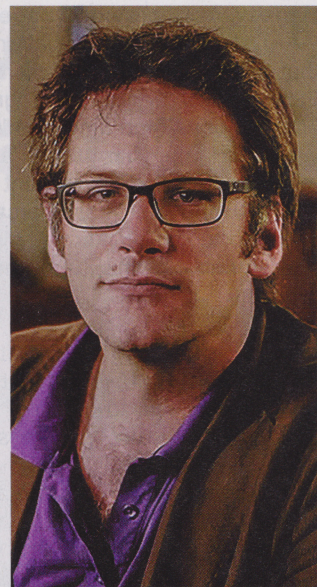
fice in the Department of Classics at Dalhousie University, and consists of my automobile and its contents," Hankey writes in a memorandum attached to the will.

It's dated February 25, 2021, less than three weeks after **Halifax Regional Police** laid the first of three sexual assault charges

involving teen male victims.

"Apart from my automobile, my most valuable possessions are the watercolour of the Papal officers, my thousands of books, and hundreds of CDs, the latter largely of Classical and earlier music.

**Continued on next page**



5% apiece to Kiyo Masui (left), (Heinrich) Hendrik "Henk" Fisher, Jacob Glover and Eli Diamond.

#### Hankey, from previous page

"So far as possible I should like sets of items to be kept together, so for example, the six (6) Stirling Silver forks, a set of China, **Robert Crouse's** dessert plates, the volumes of the **Platonic Theology of Proclus**, the **Opera Omnia of Augustine**, and the boxed sets of the works of **Bach** and of **Mozart** should each of them be regarded as a set. If my automobile (as of February 2021, a **Lexus**) has retained its value at the time of my death, it is too costly to count as a single item and is probably best sold for the benefit of the estate... but should (someone) wish to take it as one of the possessions to which he or she is entitled, he or she will relinquish his right to an appropriate number of other possessions, as agreed by my (executor)."

Keeping in mind that he penned the document with three co-executors in mind, he instructs that each of them would be allowed "the choice of up to fifty (50) books or sets of books and up to thirty (30) other possessions or sets of possessions and up to twenty-four (24) bottles of wine from my wine cellar"

After the executors have first pick, he instructs that the rest will be divided among **Dr. Evan King, Elizabeth King, Dr. Michael Fournier, Dr. Eli Diamond, Dr. Alexander Treiger, Dr. James Bryson** and **Dr. Ste-**



Hankey's sister Kathleen Masui and old pal Justice Peter Bryson.

Hankey's watchful eye. He went on to found something called **Ralston College**, a 'free-thinking' on-line institute that worships at the altar of **Jordan Peterson**. I see where James "Strang is a Nazi!" Bryson also has a hand in that particular learning emporium.

"My (executor) shall have absolute discretion in disposing of the remainder of my books and CDs. This includes allowing those named above, including themselves, to take great numbers."

After all of Bach's sickest concertos have long been spoken for, we now move to a third tier of beneficia-

ries, which for whatever reason is where his siblings reside, including his sisters **Kathleen Masui** and **Camilla Noiles of Hants County** and his brother **Blair Gilbert Hankey**, a lawyer in **Montreal**.

Justice Bryson also gets to sift through the dregs, along with "**Donna Edwards**, of **Eastern Passage**, currently the Administrative Secretary to the Department of Classics, Dalhousie University."

With the stuff nobody else wants, Hankey instructs that "appropriate gifts" be given, "to any of my former students, my friends, or relatives who wish them."

Oh, and under "cash bequests," instructions "to pay \$1.00 to Dalhousie University as a supplement to the **Wayne John Eisenhower-Hankey Endowment**."

Continued on next page



Michael Fournier (left) & Alexander Treiger.

**phen Blackwood.**

Both Fournier and Treiger are in the Classics/Religious Studies Department at Dal, while Blackwood is another Maritimer/late '90s King's student who did his MA under

## Hankey, from previous page

A Dal Classics newsletter from 2014 that still resides on the internet touts the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program, and the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of the big perv: "Over the last year Dr. Hankey has started a new endowment fund for the department with a gift of \$25,000 and these anniversaries provide an opportunity for alumni, friends, faculty and students of the department to match his gift.

"The Eisenhower-Hankey Endowment started with Dr. Hankey's gift will support the philosophical side of our work and what is essential to that like the teaching of **Greek and Latin.**" (*But mostly Greek! — ed.*)

Hankey's last will and testament, dated March 5, 2021, was prepared by **Vanja Mitrovic** of **Burchells LLP**, and witnessed by **Mika MacLellan**

He was dead 11 months later.

The grant of probate was issued May 26, meaning a full inventory is due August 26, barring any delay.

*tips@frankmagazine.ca*

Sorry, nephew!  
Five's better  
than nothing!

## Residue

(c) My Trustee shall divide and transfer the rest and residue of my estate in the following manner:

- (i) Fifty percent (50%) to **Andrew Stephen Griffin** for his own use absolutely;
- (ii) Ten percent (10%) to **Dr Evan King** for his own use absolutely;

MS

- 3 -

- (iii) Ten percent (10%) to **Dr. James Richardson Bryson** for his own use absolutely;
- (iv) Ten percent (10%) to **Phineas Steward** for his own use absolutely;
- (v) Five percent (5%) to **Dr Kiyo Masui** for his own use absolutely;
- (vi) Five percent (5%) to **Heinrich Fisher** for his own use absolutely
  - A. Any outstanding debts or obligations owed to me or my Estate by Heinrich Fisher are released.
- (vii) Five percent (5%) to **Jacob Glover** for his own use absolutely; and
- (viii) Five percent (5%) to **Dr Eli Diamond** for his own use absolutely.

## INTERESTS OF MINORS

### Memorandum in respect to Household and Personal Effects of Wayne J. Hankey

All my property other than that which is held in my bank or investment accounts at Scotiabank is found in my apartment located at 401-2 Ramsgate Lane (with a separately rented storage closet on the same floor), in my office in the Department of Classics at Dalhousie University, and consists of my automobile and its contents. Apart from my automobile, my most valuable possessions are the watercolour of the Papal officers, my thousands of books, and hundreds of CDs, the latter largely of Classical and earlier music.

This is how I should like to have my possessions disposed of, respecting always the judgment of my co-executors and co-trustees, which shall be absolute and final. So far as possible I should like sets of items to be kept together, so for example, the six (6) Stirling Silver forks, a set of China, Robert Crouse's dessert plates, the volumes of the *Platonic Theology* of Proclus, the *Opera Omnia* of Augustine, and the boxed sets of the works of Bach and of Mozart should each of them be regarded as a set. If my automobile (as of February 2021, a Lexus) has retained its value at the time of my death, it is too costly to count as a single item and is probably best sold for the benefit of the estate, but should one of my co-executors and co-trustees or other beneficiaries wish to take it as one of the possessions to which he or she is entitled, he or she will relinquish his right to an appropriate number of other possessions, as agreed by my co-executors and co-trustees.

\*\*\*\*

To each of my co-executors and co-trustees remaining at the time of my death, the choice of up to fifty (50) books or sets of books and up to thirty (30) other possessions or sets of possessions and up to twenty-four (24) bottles of wine from my wine cellar.

\*\*\*\*

After my co-executors and co-trustees have made their selections, the remainder will be divided among the following:

Dr Evan King  
Elizabeth King  
Dr Michael Fournier  
Dr Eli Diamond  
Dr Alexander Treiger  
Dr James Bryson  
Dr Stephen Blackwood

\*\*\*\*\*

My co-executors and co-trustees shall have absolute discretion in disposing of the remainder of my books and CDs. This includes allowing those named above, including themselves, to take greater numbers.

\*\*\*

As to my other possessions, after each of my co-executors and co-trustees have made their choices of up to thirty (30) other possessions or sets of possessions and twenty-four (24) bottles of wine from my wine cellar, the following individuals may select up to ten (10) possessions (or sets of possessions):

Heinrich Fisher, who may keep all my possessions he now has and is forgiven any debts he owes me.

My sister Kathleen Margaret Masui, currently of Porter's Lake.


My sister Camilla Noiles, currently of Windsor.

My brother Blair Gilbert Hankey, currently of Montreal.

Peter M.S. Bryson, currently a Justice of the Appeals Division of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court.

Donna Edwards, of Eastern Passage, currently the Administrative Secretary to the Department of Classics, Dalhousie University.

My co-executors and co-trustees shall have absolute discretion in disposing of the remainder of my possessions. This includes allowing those named in this memorandum, including themselves, to take greater numbers of items or sets of items. They are encouraged to give appropriate gifts to any of my former students, my friends, or relatives who wish them.

  
W.J. Hankey  
February 25, 2021

# No, it isn't very pretty what a town without veracity can do...

By Miss Leeding

Under threat of legal reprisals from its former top bureaucrat, **Kentville Town Council** has issued a hastily thrown together climbdown from controversial comments made this winter by beleaguered **Mayor Sandra Snow**.

In a lawyer's letter dated July 21, former CAO **Kelly Rice** accused the mayor of disparaging her, "Not for the interests of the **Town of Kentville**, but for base political interests."

Much like town staffers quoted recently in **Frank**, Rice was upset that the mayor described allegations the ousted CAO made in her infamous July, 2020 letter to council as "unsubstantiated."

"The truth is that Ms. Rice was never approached by (**Jennifer**) **Weston**, the lawyer who was retained to investigate the allegations and to provide a Workplace Legal Opinion," reads the letter, penned by **Patterson Law** legalist **Dennis James**.

Among the well-known bullet-pointed highlights was the time the mayor, "In one of her fits of anger... threatened to trip a staff member so she would 'smash her face'." (**Frank 854**)

"Ms. Rice has only recently learned that Ms. Snow withdrew from the mayor's chair of a council meeting held on February 28, 2022," continues the letter, which came precisely six days after a **Frank** dispatch describing growing unrest among **Town Hall** staffers in the wake of **Her Worship's** address to council (*The Wrath of Sandra*, July 15).

"It is wrong for Ms. Snow to represent publicly that the report dismissed all the complaints when she knew that Ms. Rice was not approached to provide information."

The former CAO also takes issue with the mayor's insistence that it was Rice who insisted on NDA's all around.

"In fact, it was the Town that insisted on a term of confidentiality... Ms. Snow's false statement was intended to disparage Ms. Rice. Ms. Rice expects Ms. Snow to make a public correction at the next meeting of Council to confirm that she made a false statement on February 28 when she told the public that it was Ms. Rice who insisted on the confidentiality provision... and to apologize to Ms. Rice."



Kentville Mayor Sandra Snow (left) & former CAO Kelly Rice.

"Council wants to correct some of the statements made by Mayor Snow," reads a five-paragraph statement adopted by council during an in-camera session on July 25, and forwarded to Rice on July 28.

"Mayor Snow stated that the letter detailed 'unsubstantiated allegations.' It is important to clarify that the letter in question contains many allegations, some of which have been admitted and others denied; the entire letter is not unsubstantiated. One thing that was abundantly clear was that there were challenges to be addressed in how Council and the Mayor communicated to staff.

"Mayor Snow claimed that a full investigation of these allegations was conducted. That statement is misleading... Ms. Rice was not interviewed as part of this investigation."

The statement also notes that the NDA attached to the terms of Rice's departure was "not something initiated by Ms. Rice as was stated by Mayor Snow."

During that July 25 meeting of council, town solicitor **Geoff Muttart** was clearly disturbed about the lawyer's letter he was sitting on and made it known that council shouldn't be discussing the so-called **Weston Report** — the document that staff have quietly been searching for behind-the-

scenes for months — in public.

**Councillor Cathy Maxwell** kicked off the fun when she asked that the "Jennifer Weston HR Report" be added to the agenda. The mayor said that was something best discussed in-camera since it was a legal matter, and Muttart backed her up, going so far as to say that it is "a common misconception" that such a thing even exists at all.

"We know that there's a report," the veteran councillor shot back.

"**Frank Magazine** knows there's a report. And the staff knows there's a report. We voted on whether or not we wanted to initiate that report. We voted on whether we wanted to have somebody come in and do that report. Therefore, council should see that report. We were given a verbal..."

That's when Muttart practically jogged back to the mic.

"Your Worship, I'm not in a position to call a point of order, but I need to interrupt. This discussion stems from in-camera conversations of this council, and neither one of these councillors should be discussing it in open session," he said, referring to Maxwell and **Councillor Andrew Zebian**, who also wished to see the report.

Continued on next page

July 21, 2022

**By E-Mail**

Sandra Snow  
Mayor  
Town of Kentville  
354 Main Street  
Kentville NS B4N 1K6

Craig Gerrard  
Councillor  
Town of Kentville  
354 Main Street  
Kentville NS B4N 1K6

Andrew Zebian  
Councillor  
Town of Kentville  
354 Main Street  
Kentville NS B4N 1K6

Gillian Yorke  
Councillor  
Town of Kentville  
354 Main Street  
Kentville NS B4N 1K6

Cate Savage  
Deputy Mayor  
Town of Kentville  
354 Main Street  
Kentville NS B4N 1K6

Cathy Maxwell  
Councillor  
Town of Kentville  
354 Main Street  
Kentville NS B4N 1K6

Paula Huntley  
Councillor  
Town of Kentville  
354 Main Street  
Kentville NS B4N 1K6

Dear Mayor and Council:

**Kelly Rice**  
**Our File Number: 4203401**

This letter concerns apparent breaches of the Minutes of Settlement outlining the settlement between Ms. Rice and the Town of Kentville of her wrongful dismissal claim ("Minutes"), as well as additional other disturbing behaviour.

**The scary lawyer's letter to council.**

**Town, from previous page**

"The existence, or non-existence of this document — and it's been misstated by both councillors as to what it is — and it's my obligation as legal counsel to the Town of Kentville... to make sure that when you're debating an issue that you have the facts in front of you... Neither one of these councillors has stated the facts correctly, around this investigation and what came from it.

"Discussion of it in these chambers should not be occurring because it's never occurred in open session, and it was always addressed in-camera. The fact it's been brought forward here now is very concerning from a legal perspective."

In Council's public statement, Weston's work is described as a "workplace investigation that was conducted... to identify issues and recommend ways to improve the workplace.

"Recommendations were provided to the Chief Administrative Officer (**Dan Troke**) to improve communications directed by individual Councillors and the Mayor to staff, and the treatment of staff by Council and the Mayor. Implementation of those recommendations is ongoing.

"The adoption of policy that has included the involvement of staff will soon be presented to Council," the statement says, which amounts to an almost complete disavowal of the mayor's February 28 statement, during which she declared the entire matter to be "closed":

"A full investigation of the allegations was conducted, the Town was provided with a legal opinion, legal fees were reported... This is a closed matter, and further inquiries and correspondence will be forwarded directly to our solicitor," the mayor said at the time.

Back to council's climbdown statement: "(Mayor and Council) individually and collectively agree to always be cognizant of the impact of their comments on Town staff, and their interactions with those employees when seeking and sharing information."

Speaking of the impact of the mayor and council on staff, I'm hearing there's a widespread feeling at Town Hall that certain elected officials are doing their level best to smoke out which staffers had the

Ms. Rice has only recently learned that Ms. Snow withdrew from the mayor's chair of a Council meeting held on February 28, 2022. The record of the meeting is still available online and it records that at the 1 hour and 27-minute mark that Ms. Snow addresses the issue of Ms. Rice's employment and refers to and then disparages the July 30, 2020, letter setting out many complaints from staff as having been proven to be unsubstantiated.

As to the assertion by Ms. Snow that all the allegations set out in Ms. Rice's letter of July 30 were found to be unsubstantiated, I remind Council that the Town negotiated the following term in the Minutes:

11. Ms. Rice may co-operate with and provide information to any legal counsel retained by the TOK to provide the Workplace Legal Opinion if she so wishes. For greater certainty, the Workplace Legal Opinion and information provided in the course of the preparation of the Workplace Legal Opinion shall remain subject to the covenants in paragraphs 9 (a) and (b).

The truth is that Ms. Rice was never approached by Ms. Weston, the lawyer who was retained to investigate the allegations and to provide a Workplace Legal Opinion. Given that Ms. Weston did not approach her then it follows that the information Ms. Rice had was never considered by Ms. Weston, which immediately discredits the Opinion. It is wrong for Ms. Snow to represent publicly that the report dismissed all the complaints when she knew that Ms. Rice was not approached to provide information. Ms. Rice expects Ms. Snow to confirm publicly that Ms. Weston never contacted Ms. Rice to obtain a statement from her about the allegations set out in the July 30 letter, and, as a result, her experience was never considered in preparing the Workplace Legal Opinion, and to apologize to Ms. Rice.

Also, Ms. Snow falsely stated on February 28 that it was Ms. Rice who insisted on the confidentiality requirement in the Minutes. In fact, it was the Town that insisted on a term of confidentiality through its counsel as set out in the attached letter of August 5, 2020. Prior to August 5, we had not set out any position on settlement and were preparing to file a court action. The only communication that we sent to the Town prior to August 5 was a litigation hold letter, a copy of which is attached. Ms. Snow's false statement was intended to disparage Ms. Rice. Ms. Rice expects Ms. Snow to make a public correction at the next meeting of Council to confirm that she made a false statement on February 28 when she told the public that it was Ms. Rice who insisted on the confidentiality provision in the Minutes, and to apologize to Ms. Rice.

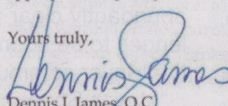
The entire presentation by Ms. Snow on February 28 as it relates to Ms. Rice, her letter of complaint and the terms of her settlement was in violation of the Minutes. It violated the confidentiality provision that the Town demanded including in its letter of August 5, 2020.

Ms. Rice lives in the Municipality of the County of Kings and is aware that comments that can only be sourced from elected officials aware of the circumstances have been and continue to be made about her. She is aware of comments by third parties who attribute Ms. Snow as the source of statements that they have repeated. The comments are defamatory and derogatory and abusive of Ms. Rice.

Ms. Rice is of the opinion that the public comments by Ms. Snow at the February 28 meeting were intended to be and were disparaging of Ms. Rice and not for the interests of the Town of Kentville, but for base political interests. The comments that have come to Ms. Rice's attention, with Ms. Snow as the source, are disparaging and defamatory and outside of the role as mayor, and in violation of the *Municipal Government Act* and the Code of Conduct as it all relates to personnel issues.

This letter is to advise that Ms. Rice expects the Mayor and Council to respect the terms of the Minutes. The Town and Ms. Snow have caused injury to Ms. Rice. She will not tolerate any further injury and insists that Council will take steps to correct false public statements made on February 28. Repeated conduct will attract personal liability for Ms. Snow in addition to the Town's liability. If this behaviour continues, Ms. Rice will take all appropriate steps to protect herself.

Yours truly,

  
Dennis J. James, Q.C.  
djames@pattersonlaw.ca  
Tel: 902.896.6149

DJJ

Enclosures

c. Client

temerity to speak to Frank.

"Since the article came out, staff have been trying to manage a very high degree of stress and fear of retaliation," one source advises.

As reported in **Frank 866**, when Rice learned on July 27, 2020 of her imminent shit-canning, she decided to go out with a bang.

"The mayor has been bullying people since 2016," is one source's memory of Rice's mindset at the time.

**Continued on next page**

## Town, from previous page

"She said, 'I've gotta try to help the staff to... try to fix this craziness'."

Sources say Rice sat down with four municipal colleagues and brainstormed. In the room was the town's director of engineering and public works **Dave Bell**; finance director **Debra Crowell**; **Beverly Gentleman** (dir of planning and development); and community and economic development co-ordinator **Lindsay Young**.

Rice's employment with the town of Kentville was over less than 24 hours after she hit send.

Back at the July 25 council meeting, deputy mayor **Cate Savage** shed a few crocodile tears for staff who she said were "reinjured" every time these hurtful, scurrilous (*and also true!* — **ed.**) allegations are spoken of in public.

"I am disappointed that individuals — nobody in particular, but individuals — continue to resurrect this. It was unfortunate and I know I personally feel terrible that this has been brought up again, and that some staff are reinjured through this process. I myself, I trust the HR process and I trust our CAO. If staff feel aggrieved in any way, that they would come forward to the CAO," she said.

As mentioned previously, considering certain staffers feel they're in an atmosphere wherein if they stick their heads up and complain they'll be executed summarily, it might be wise if they kept their grievances to themselves. At least for now.

*tips@frankmagazine.ca*

## PUBLIC STATEMENT ADOPTED BY COUNCIL BY RESOLUTION (JULY 25, 2022):

At the February 28, 2022, meeting of the Council of the Town of Kentville, Mayor Sandra Snow made a speech in which she spoke about numerous issues, including matters which involved former Town Chief Administrative Officer Kelly Rice and the staff at the Town. Council wants to correct some of the statements made by Mayor Snow.

Mayor Snow referred to a letter dated July 30, 2020, penned by Ms. Rice which described concerns about the working environment at the Town's offices. Mayor Snow stated that the letter detailed "unsubstantiated allegations". It is important to clarify that the letter in question contains many allegations, some of which have been admitted and others denied; the entire letter is not unsubstantiated. One thing that was abundantly clear was that there were challenges to be addressed in how Council and the Mayor communicated with staff.

Mayor Snow claimed that a full investigation of these allegations was conducted. That statement is misleading. The purpose of a workplace investigation that was conducted was to identify issues and recommend ways to improve the workplace. Ms. Rice was not interviewed as part of this investigation. Recommendations were provided to the Chief Administrative Officer to improve communications directed by individual Councillors and the Mayor to staff, and the treatment of staff by Council and the Mayor. Implementation of those recommendations is ongoing. The adoption of policy that has included the involvement of staff will soon be presented to Council.

There is an agreement between the Town and Ms. Rice addressing the terms of cessation of her employment with the Town. It is a typical part of such an agreement that neither party will disclose the terms. This is not something that was initiated by Ms. Rice as was stated by Mayor Snow.

By unanimous resolution of Council, Council declares that it is dedicated to a respectful workplace at the Town. While individual Councillors and the Mayor may have disparate opinions and strenuously debate with others in the Council Chamber, they individually and collectively agree to always be cognizant of the impact of their comments on Town staff, and their interactions with those employees when seeking and sharing information.

## The scaredy-cat statement from council.

## Alexa, from Page 4

The residue of Alexa's estate is to be divided in equal parts between the two brothers.

An inventory filed with Alexa's estate shows business interests amounting to \$751,201.66 in **Commonwealth Investments Inc. N.S. Registry of Joint Stocks** lists Justin McDonough as sole officer/director and recognized agent of that company.

There's also \$467,676.72 in a **Credential Financial** non-registered investment account, \$218,601.99 in a **Credit Union Atlantic** chequing account, a **Prius** (*what else?* — **ed.**) worth \$10,000 and unspecified art worth \$12,500.

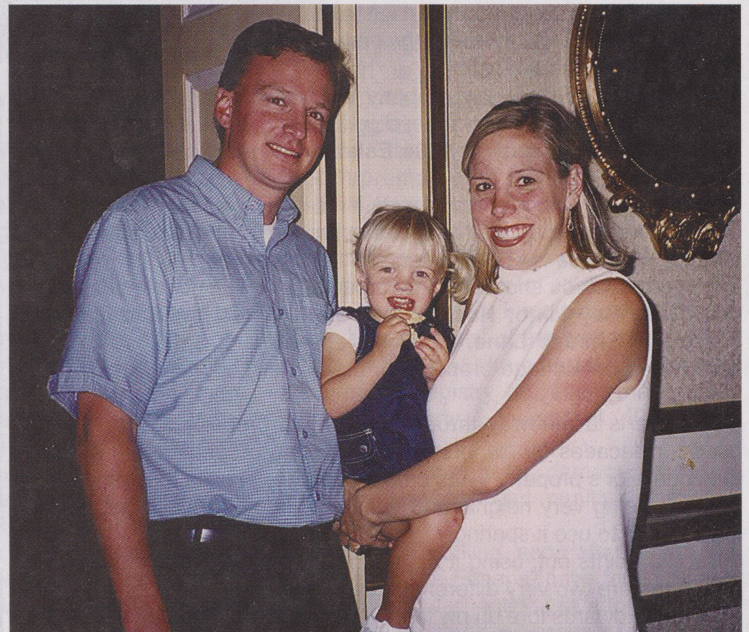
The daughter of millionaire businessman/orange-coloured politico **Lloyd Shaw** held real property on the aptly named **Shaw Island Road** in **Marriotts Cove, Lunenburg County** (2022 tax assessment: \$973,400).

Her sons, whose families live next door to each other in \$1 million-plus assessed piles on **Waegwoltic Avenue** in **Halifax's old-money Deep South End** — Travis and his wife **Margaret (Taylor)** and Justin and his wife **Heather (Anderson)** — also share a place nearby to their mom's in **Marriotts Cove** (\$864,900 tax assessment).

Travis and Margaret also hold title to a condo on the 17<sup>th</sup> floor of the **Roy** building on **Granville Street** (\$459,200) and a



Alexa & Justin (above) at some posh event or other. Right, Justin with wiferoo Heather (Anderson) & baby Abbie Jean.



vacation pile on **Harbourside Drive** in **Fox Harbour** (\$523,500).

Peter's estate inventory shows \$567,143 in the bank (\$504,635 in **Manulife Bank**, with the rest split between two **Scotiabank** accounts); \$315,000 in stocks and shares with the lion's share (\$295,000) in Kindcut, the company his son founded; and another \$535,810 in miscellaneous property (\$317,000 in **National Bank** and \$218,311 in **Quadrus**).

He didn't technically hold real property at the time of his death, as his \$535,200-assessed pile on **McLean Street** near **Point Pleasant Park** is registered in his widow's name.

The most detail in Peter's seven-page

will, dated September 4, 2013 (his ex-wife's LW&T runs 20 pages) is devoted to the division of his household goods, with a total value of \$50,000:

His car, along with his "**Kadlac** painting, the painting that includes a lobster and my Indian cigar store presently in my McLean St home" goes to Travis, while Justin snags his "three **Surette** paintings", a pine grandfather clock "presently in my McLean St home, and my **Bang and Olfsen** record player."

For those interested in such things, documents peg taxes paid on Alexa's estate at \$40,072.40, while Peter's netted the government precisely \$24,054.65.

*tips@frankmagazine.ca*

# C.B. land grab feud flares up

By Eve Ictim

The use of a right-of-way on the shores of the **Bras d'Or Lakes** is at the centre of a property dispute between a rookie **CBRM** councillor and a retired lawyer that is moving into its third year.

Now 86, **Frank Elman** tells me he's got precisely one box left to check in life, and that is to cross-examine **District 8 Councillor James Edwards** about why he thinks he has the right to build a boat ramp on a property in **Northside East Bay** that has belonged to the old **Tory** warhorse since the 1970s.

Edwards, you might recall, is the fellow who, while on his way to chair a meeting of the **Donkin** mine's community liaison committee back in July, was accused of nudging a protester with his truck (**Frank 866**).

Affectionately described by my organ as a "brass-faced old legal hackster" back in the day, Frank readers of a certain age will remember Elman, a **1957 Dal Law** grad, for his chicanery in the infamous **Technitread Tire** industrial development scam that left taxpayers on the hook for \$2 million in the early '90s (**Frank 231, Frank 302, etc.**).

According to Elman, the property dispute started in July of 2020 when he came across a stranger digging on his land, a 75 acre plot of resource/forest property at **1894 Eskasoni Road** (2022 tax assessment: \$116,000).

He says the stranger introduced himself by saying, "My name is James Edwards and I just bought this property," at which time Elman replied, "My name is Frank Elman and I own this property."

Property records show that the retired **CRA** toiler, school bus driver and **Glace Bay Minor Hockey Association** president had just purchased **40 Shaded Lane**, (2022 tax assessment: \$125,800) a half-acre waterfront cottage property on the eastern boundary of Elman's land.

At issue is a roadway through the Elman property that has been used for decades by owners of neighbouring properties — including the councillor's property — as a right-of-way to access their land.

"I was being very neighbourly," Elman tells me, adding that he "allowed them to use it sparingly"

But, he points out, using it as a right-of-way for cars and building a boat ramp are two very different things.

"James Edwards tore up my land, removed trees, and gravelled in an extended roadway (+158 feet with a gravelled side parking area) creating a bank and ramp for the purpose of launching a boat. He grassed an area of my land to accommodate his own lawn. What he did was an indictable criminal offence: Mischief over \$5,000," is how Elman puts it in an affidavit found at the courthouse in Sydney.

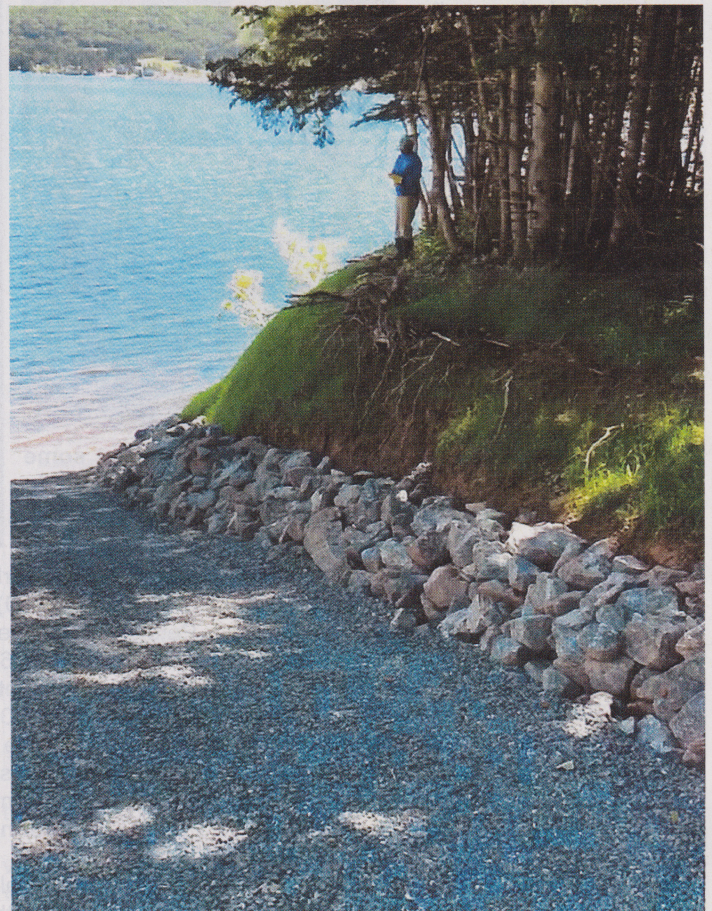
There were early discussions about Edwards purchasing the piece of land — about 10,000 sq ft — but they couldn't come to terms on price, with Edwards only willing to pay \$5K and Elman asking 10 times that.

For the next year, court documents show that more lines would be drawn and crossed, both figuratively and literally, than you could shake a stick at. Come to think of it, in an affidavit filed the other month by Elman's daughter **Marlene**, who lives nearby with her husband and daughter and acts as her father's "agent and scribe," several sticks were shaken as well.

Recalling the October 3, 2020 meeting she had with Edwards and his wife **Paula**, he "laughed" at the price disparity, and suggested that they just leave everything as "status quo."

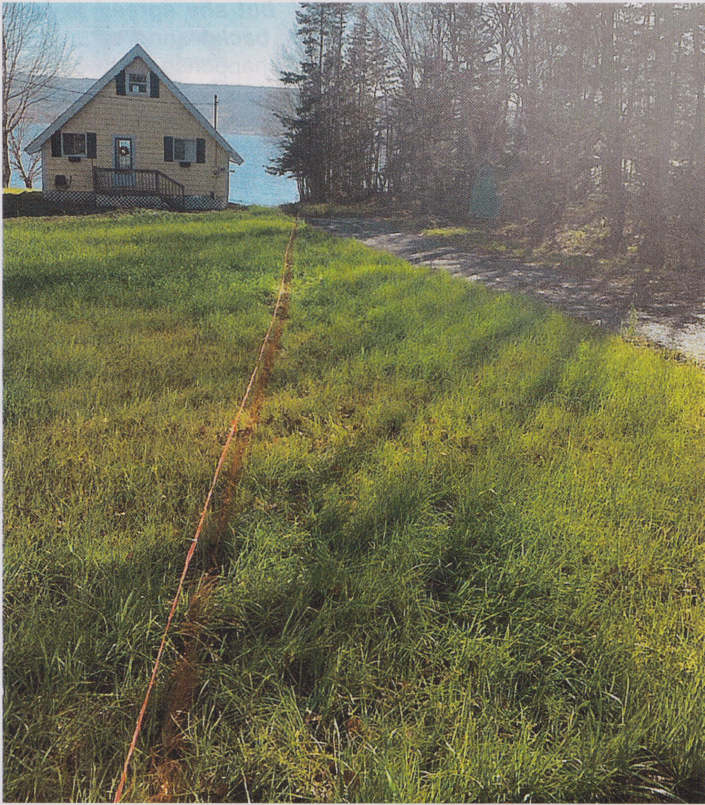


A photograph attached to the affidavit of Marlene Elman depicts the roadway. (Now with new and improved signage! — ed.)



A photograph attached to the affidavit of Marlene Elman. That's Marlene's husband Skip standing on the bluff. To his left is the gravelled boat launch at issue. That's Ben Eoin directly across the water.

Continued on next page



Orange painted property lines at 40 Shaded Lane, courtesy of Team Elman, and half-assed fence, also courtesy of Team Elman. Right, James Edwards.

#### Land, from previous page

Instead, Elman demanded the land be restored to its original state, and with the help of his daughter, started marking the property lines with orange paint and tape and then putting a chain across the roadway, "restricting Mr. Edwards from doing any further damage to the property."

On January 16, 2001, according to Marlene's affidavit, **CBRP Const. Richard Spencer** came to visit, advising that Edwards — who I should probably tell you sits on the **Cape Breton Regional Police Commission** — called to complain about the chain.

Upon her subsequent discovery that the chain had been cut, she made a complaint of her own to the police and started advancing the case for a mischief charge. At some point in February, she writes that a **Const. Eastwick** advised that he had called Edwards and "told him not to use our roadway to access his property to which he said Edwards replied that he had no intention of not using the road and that he had the right to do so."

Tension escalated again that spring when Marlene and her husband paid a visit to her father's land following the installation of fence posts connected "temporarily, with branches," demarcating the shared property line:

"On June 8, 2021, I went with my husband to my father's property and witnessed Edwards tearing out the fence posts. To my objections Edwards thrust out a business card and said, 'Call my lawyer'. After the fence was dismantled and (*shaken stick alert!* — **ed.**) the posts pitched into the woods Mr. Edwards started pitching the extra posts that were lying on the grass to the west of

the gravelled driveway. My husband stood on these posts and told Edwards that they were not his property nor on his property but Edwards yanked up the posts anyway, causing my husband to fall hard on the remaining posts. While standing on my father's property Edwards told me to 'get off my land'. I called the police but when **Const. Morrison** and others arrived on the property they would not take any action against Edwards."

A week later, Team Elman re-installed the posts and put the chain back up — did I mention the new 'No Trespassing' signs on the roadway, too? — causing the constabulary to once again pay a visit.

"**Constable Jim Taylor** arrived at my door at **1937 Eskasoni Road** with the chain. He said he told Edwards that he could take down the poles and told me that it was unlawful to block a right-of-way. I informed Constable Taylor that Edwards had his own right-of-way to use," she writes.

Through it all, Elman has been arguing that Edwards doesn't need the roadway, as the original subdivision plan came complete with a 15-foot right-of-way for access to 40 Shaded Lane.

Marlene continues: "Const. Taylor objected, saying (*Small town alert!* — **ed.**) he used that roadway frequently when visiting the previous owner and always parked on that area of land. I told Const. Taylor that using the road did not constitute owing the road and that he was parking on private property. I added that I intended to exercise my father's rights of ownership."

Just before **Canada Day**, 2021, **CBRP Staff-Sgt. Routledge** got involved, and advised the Elmans that he was referring the

file to **Investigator Ratchford**, to whom Frank Elman eventually sat for a lengthy statement.

The court system shows no charges have been laid, but then, this is the sort of file that police tend to run away from while shouting "Civil matter! Civil matter!" regardless of whether one of the

complainants happens to sit on the police commission.

In his February **Notice of Application** in **N.S. Supreme Court**, Edwards — represented by **Michael Gallagher of Cox & Palmer** — asked the court for a declaration that his property has a "collective easement," but later amended that to ask for acknowledgement that he and his wife have simply "obtained title to certain areas" of the property.

They would also like a correction made in the property registry "to reflect that certain areas of property... are part of (40 Shaded Lane)."

He's also looking for damages for nuisance, aggravated and punitive damages and costs.

In Edwards's telling, soon after he bought the place, "(The Elmans) have taken persistent and repeated actions in attempt to obstruct (the Edwards's) access to the Roadway and to the Edwards property, and in effort to detract from their enjoyment of the Edwards Property," including but not limited to spray paint, "unsightly signage," "make-shift fencing," chains and ropes, trees and logs (*and sticks!* — **ed.**), branches and debris across the roadway.

They and their predecessors, says the councillor, have made "open, continuous, uninterrupted, notorious and peaceful use of, and have adversely possessed the Roadway... for more than 20 years and therefore their interest in these portions of land is indefeasible."

"This matter is before the courts and I have no comment whatsoever," Edwards said when reached by my organ.

[tips@frankmagazine.ca](mailto:tips@frankmagazine.ca)

### Nancy, from Page 3

"In my church, children were introduced to the sacrament of Confession early. I think I might've been seven or eight the first time I had to disclose my *sins* to the priest... Here's the truth I didn't tell: I was being abused. An older boy was taking advantage of me. Touching me inappropriately. Making me touch him. A classic predator, he had access and opportunity in that time of free-range kids, and perhaps an instinct for the connection deficit I felt, the attention I craved. I never confessed this. I wonder what would've happened if I had."

— *Ibid*, pp 96-97.

"I think it's fair to say that most people have suffered abuse of one kind or another — emotional, physical, sexual — and it all leaves scars."

— *Ibid*, pp100.

***I'm not great at segues, but there's another sexual predator I'd like you to meet...***

"There was also the devastation of walking in and out of court with my dad when he was being tried for serious but decades-old allegations of sexual assault. Oh yeah... that. I'm not going to get into details..."

***Acquitted on all charges, ya-dayadayada, turns out he was guilty as hell after all...***

"Running the gauntlet of the flashing cameras and jockeying journalists of the national media each day, I had worn an expression of calm confidence; serious but not sad, interested but seemingly unaware of the circus erupting around me. An excellent faker. My father was acquitted of all the charges, but that wasn't the end of it. Suffice it to say it was a painful chapter..."

— *Ibid*, pp 104.

***Nan drops her mask on Hollywood press junket day***

"Once ushered in, I had, as usual, less than a minute to say hello to the star before I was suited up with a microphone. Mel Gibson was sitting in a period vel-



"A painful chapter..."



Nancy with Ron Kronstein.

vet chair, and as I lowered myself into an identical one across from him, he asked how I was doing. For some bizarre reason, I dropped my mask momentarily and told the truth (or at least a version of it). 'I'm a little nervous,' I said, cringing internally."

— *Ibid*, pp50.

***He also called her sugar tits and said that the Jews caused all the wars in the***

***world, but she agreed to keep that on background, so...***

"What happened next was magic. 'Nervous of talking to me?!' he exclaimed. 'I can fix that.' He screwed up his handsome movie-star face into the goofiest look he could muster, hooked one finger into his mouth, and with the other hand, began slapping his face. Then, as quickly as he'd started, he stopped. He looked at me, smiled kindly, and said, 'There! Do you feel better now?' I laughed, realizing in that moment that we were both just human beings."

— *Ibid*, pp50.

***That Daily News, couldn't trust a word of it!***

"Apart from dreading the constant judgement of my audience, I was also the frequent target of a local would-be tabloid that regularly presented fiction as fact."

— *Ibid*, pp133.

***Put me in coach, I'm ready to gag.***

"I'm not a life coach. I'm a light coach. And the light in me honours, and celebrates, the light in you."

— *Ibid*, pp213.

***Just be yourself...*** Let's start with the innocuous sounding 'just' in this statement. This is the first fatal flaw. 'Just' suggests simplicity, and for many of us, being ourselves in front of others is not a simple task — in fact, everything in my experience has taught me that it can be one of the most difficult. 'Be' is no less problematic, but we'll get to that later."

— *Ibid*, xii-xiii

***Taking flight on the wings of your disdain and your \$26.95.***

"You may hate this book... The possibility exists that the content and intent of this book will not appeal to you. While it may resonate profoundly for some, it may drop with a thud at your feet. That's okay. It's not for you. And here's the *permission* part. I give you my blessing to dislike it. To be honest, it's the *possibility* of your disdain that gives this book wings."

— *Ibid*, Introduction

You can now contact Frank via secure and encrypted email:  
**frankmagazine@protonmail.com**

# The Case of the Missing Rick Howe Book Review

By Frank Spade

It was late, the phone rang. Why is it the phone only rings in the night... like, it's 3:30 in the morning, like where do you LIVE the foookin' South Pacific!? I got it on the 32<sup>nd</sup> ring.

"Spade, it's Andrew Douglas at Frank Magazine! We've got an advance of copy of Rick Howe's new memoir and I want you to review it."

"Dick Howe?" I asked. "Who's Dick Howe?"

"Not Dick! Rick! Rick Howe!"

Suddenly the great rapture of Celine Dion launched upon me. I could hear her softly singing in my head. It was all coming back to me now.

"Rick Howe? The guy on the radio? The open mouth scruffy lookin' guy? Beard, baseball cap, crooked aviator sunglasses? Looks like he just fell off a wagon train, got a little off the trail or whatever, ya don't know if ya wanna run up and hug him or run for a fire hose? That Rick Howe?"

"Yep, that's the one," Andrew yelled.

"So, essentially, what we have here is the Case of the Missing Rick Howe Book Review?"

"NO!!" shouted Andrew. "There is no missing Rick Howe Book Review....."

"Well," I shot back. "Why ya pho-nin' me at goddam 3:30 in the morning, then?"

"Because, we want you to write the review," the Frankland managing editor explained patiently. "You are a man of letters are you not?"

"Not me. Just like the sounds of things in my head. Most times, I guess."

"We want the readers to see the book through your eyes and, and..."

I thanked Andrew for his kindness. But there are two things a man in my condition doesn't want within arm's reach these days: a sharp object or a keyboard, essentially one and the same. Nonetheless, every man does have the right to ask."

"What about expenses?"

"Enough for two days," came the reply.

"Alright," I answered.

"I'll need cat food, cat litter, some of that smelly stuff to spray in the bathroom, booze, Russian vodka if ya can find it, six cartons of cigarettes, lots of thick frozen pizza, a ton

## Behind The Mic

Five Decades Covering the News in the Maritimes

RICK HOWE

FOREWORD BY YVONNE COLBERT

of paper products, some higher concentrate marijuana grape gummies. Enough for 10 days, not two days. Some Subway, gotta love Subway, and a flexible deadline, lots of runway. Don't want either one of us walking away disappointed."

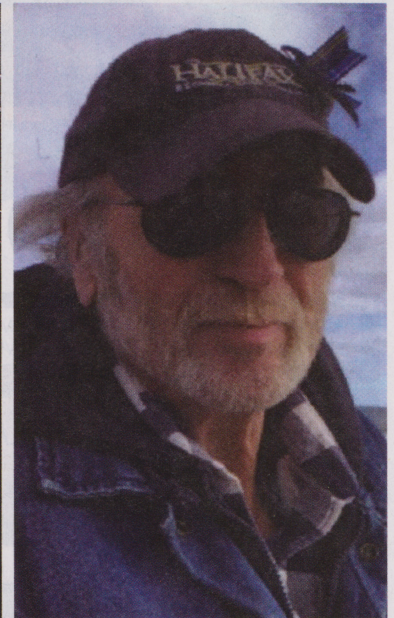
But it had to be top secret. If news got out Frank Magazine was getting the scoop review of Rick Howe's new long-awaited memoir, his second in the 14 long years since 2008, there could be chaos in the street. People could die.

I didn't have to think about it. "OK, courier this secret copy of Rick Howe's new memoir over to Fawly Towers and I'll have a look at it."

"Again," Andrew insisted, "I can't, I must give it to you in person! It's that sensitive."

"Look," I said. "I'm not asking that Paul Palango ride down Spring Garden Road waving it on the back of a donkey..."

"No-can-do," replied Andrew.



"Fine," I said. "Meet me at the Tim's on the corner of Agony & More Agony for coffee and bring this exciting all-new Rick Howe memoir with you."

Andrew showed up at 10:15 a.m.

"How ya doin'?" he asked.

I told him I'd tell him I was good if he didn't ask me to prove it.

"Another local media memoir, huh?" I grunted.

Andrew nodded his head, "Yeah, thir'd this month and the same pattern, too. Softcover, just over 200

pages, local Lower Rubber Boot publisher, big fish in small pool, faithful followers, all of them vocal, some will make sense, some won't, and more than a few just like the sound of their own voices... likely one or two will turn out to be professional stalkers."

"What's the name of the book?" I asked.

"Behind The Mic: Five Decades Covering the News in the Maritimes," Andrew said.

"No points for originality so far," I said. "Who's the publisher?"

"Pottersfield."

"Pottersfield? Isn't that the surfer guy, the import American, Lord Mayor of Lawrencetown, the professor guy, ageless publicity whore, whose name unfortunately escapes me at the moment?"

"Lesley Choyce."

"Ya, that's the name. What university department does he teach in?"

Continued on Page 29

HEY HEY HEY - PREMIER **TIMMINGTON J. HOUSTON** HERE! DIDJA SEE THE OTHER DAY WHEN I CALLED THE ENTIRE LEGISLATURE BACK FOR A SPECIAL SITTING JUST SO WE COULD VOTE TO **NOT** GIVE OURSELVES RAISES? PRETTY COOL HUH! BUT THAT'S NOT OUR **ONLY** THEATRICALY THRIFTY DISPLAY OF PUBLIC FRUGALITY! CHECK OUT SOME...

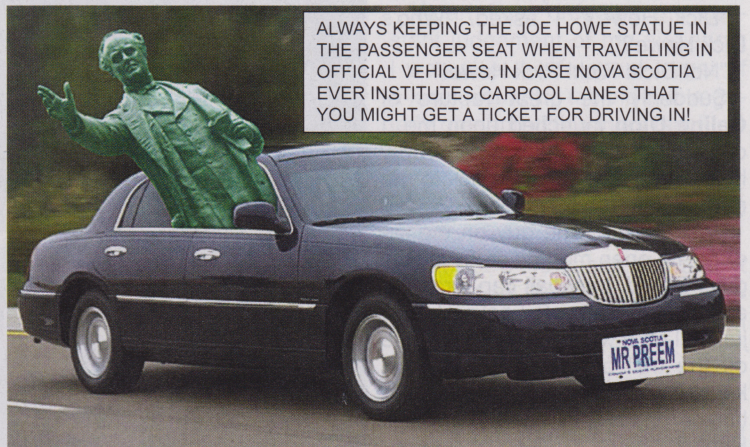


# more GREAT WAYS THE HOUSTON GOVERNMENT IS SAVING YOU MONEY!

MONTHLY LEGISLATIVE TRIPS TO MICMAC MALL SO WE CAN UNANIMOUSLY VOTE TO NOT HAVE A CINNABON!



ALWAYS KEEPING THE JOE HOWE STATUE IN THE PASSENGER SEAT WHEN TRAVELLING IN OFFICIAL VEHICLES, IN CASE NOVA SCOTIA EVER INSTITUTES CARPOOL LANES THAT YOU MIGHT GET A TICKET FOR DRIVING IN!



SHIPPING ALL MLAs' GUCCI OXFORDS BACK TO ITALY TO HAVE THE LACES HAND-CONVERTED TO VELCRO STRAPS! VOILA - UP TO EIGHT EXTRA SECONDS EVERY DAY THAT CAN BE SPENT WORKING DILIGENTLY FOR THE PEOPLE OF NOVA SCOTIA!



REDUCING GAS COSTS WITHIN THE PROVINCE BY JACKING UP THE YARMOUTH END ON CINDER BLOCKS! (GOOD FOR SOUTH-NORTH TRAVEL ONLY)



AFTER USING THE SECRET SWIMMING POOL BENEATH PROVINCE HOUSE WHERE WE KEEP ALL YOUR TAX DOLLARS, ALWAYS REMEMBERING TO CLEAR THE EXTRA FIVES OUT OF THE FILTER!



AVOIDING RIPOFF DOOR DASH DELIVERY FEES BY KNOCKING THE BACK WALL OF THE HOUSE DIRECTLY THROUGH TO THE SUBWAY NEXT DOOR!

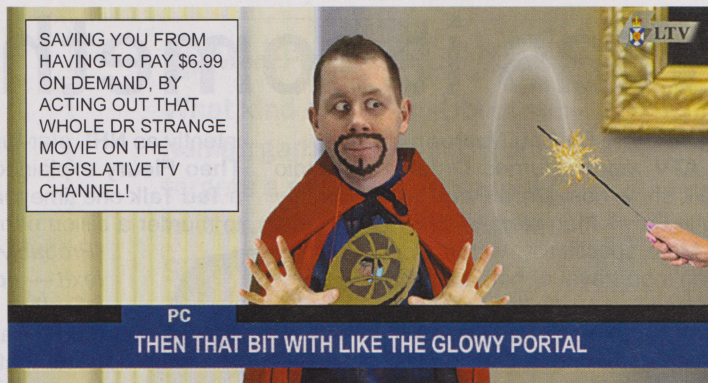


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SAVING YOU FROM HAVING TO PAY \$6.99 ON DEMAND, BY ACTING OUT THAT WHOLE DR STRANGE MOVIE ON THE LEGISLATIVE TV CHANNEL!

PC  
THEN THAT BIT WITH LIKE THE GLOWY PORTAL



WHEN CARRYING OUT OUR COMPREHENSIVE HEALTHCARE FUNDING PLAN, SAVING YOU A DOLLAR BY NOT PLAYING THE TAG!



UTILIZING THE SKILLS COMER LEARNED IN WELDING CLASS TO REDUCE MLAs' DAILY MCDONALD BRIDGE TOLLS!



ENDING THE DISGRACEFUL WASTE OF TAX MONEY ON EXPENSIVE GLAD SANDWICH BAGS, BY INSTEAD EMPLOYING A TEAM OF TRAINED PEANUT BUTTER SANDWICH MAKERS TO ASSEMBLE SANDWICHES ON THE ROOFTOP OF THE BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE LEGISLATURE AND THEN USE MODIFIED SKEET-SHOOTING LAUNCHERS TO FIRE THEM DIRECTLY INTO HUNGRY MLAs' MOUTHS!



GROWING OUR OWN ORGANIC HALMANS!



INSTEAD OF CONSTRUCTING AN ENTIRE HISTORIC 1811 PALLADIAN LEGISLATIVE BUILDING AT A COST OF HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, SIMPLY DOING THE THRONE SPEECH IN FRONT OF A GREEN SCREEN AND ADDING A CGI PROVINCE HOUSE IN POST!



EXTENDING THE USABLE LIFE OF MLAs' DESIGNER OPERA PUMPS BY REINFORCING THEM WITH A STURDY CRISS-CROSSING FRAMEWORK OF SUPPORTIVE STRING!



INSTEAD OF PRICY BRAND-NAME HORSE CRAP, SHOVELING MORE AFFORDABLE PRESIDENT'S CHOICE NO-NAME HORSE CRAP!



# Was it something we said...?

By Lou Neetoon

ATV reporter-turned Ontario AM radio talk show host **Marc Patrone** is unhappy with **Frank Magazine**.

More specifically, with my organ's portrayal of him last time out as a man "fully ensconced in the realm of freedom, with all the weirdness that entails" (**Frank 866**).

"You based your entire hit piece on a handful of interviews," he wrote on the Frank **Facebook** page a few days after *The devolution of Marc Patrone* hit the web.

"That doesn't strike me as fair at all... You based your 'story' on a minuscule sampling of my show. Why not at least attempt to get a comment from me?" (*"It appears you've gone around the bend, sir, can you tell us what happened?" — ed.*)

Just as happens regularly on **The Marc Patrone Show**, it isn't long before his commentary takes somewhat of a turn, shall we say.

"Do you 'hang out' around elementary schools a lot? You look like the type... As a parent I just wouldn't feel safe knowing someone like you would be left unsupervised around very young children," he typed while addressing the editor of Frank.

"I've covered enough trials involving sexual predators to know they have a certain creepy look about them and you fit the profile. Are you on a watch list yet, dipshit?"

Whilst demanding to know how much Frank trousered from "**The Blackface Media Fund**" (*Barely enough for two Patrone hit pieces, if we're being completely honest. The rest will have to be gratis! — ed.*), he also noted that he wished to

"check your priors as I don't think children are safe within a 10 mile radius of you."

All good points, to be sure. And in truth, the Frank article that put our man on high alert was based on precisely one interview, which featured Patrone listening

intently as **NHL** star-turned-freedom-lover **Theo Fleury** explained how he heard on a **Ted Talk** one time that **Bill Gates** wants to murder a billion people or thereabouts.

(Probably taken out of context! — ed.)

Further analysis of The Marc Patrone Show suggests that he's in fact a very reasonable fellow and a prince among men.

I was in the process of preparing a full correction and apology when Marc deleted most of his Facebook commentary and blocked my organ on **Twitter**. In the interest of not causing additional harm to my new friend, perhaps it's best to leave things be for now?

[tips@frankmagazine.ca](mailto:tips@frankmagazine.ca)



Marc Patrone



Marc Patrone

I've covered enough trials involving sexual predators to know they have a certain creepy look about them and you fit the profile. Are you on a watch list yet, dipshit?



MarcPatroneShow  
@MarcPatrone

You're blocked

You can't follow or see @MarcPatrone's Tweets.  
[Learn more](#)



Marc Patrone

Do you 'hang out' around elementary schools a lot? You look like the type.

10h Like Reply Message Hide



Author

Frank

Marc Patrone Frank had you pegged all wrong. Turns out you're a very reasonable fellow and a prince among men. Correction and apology incoming!

9h Like Reply



Marc Patrone

As a parent I just wouldn't feel safe knowing someone like you would be left unsupervised around very young children.



Marc Patrone

What's your company name listing in the Registry of Joint Stock Companies?

15h Like Reply Message Hide



Andrew Douglas

Marc Patrone crap. Knew I forgot to do something. Brb!

13h Like Reply Message Hide



Marc Patrone

Andrew Douglas oh did you forget to do that. That's a bad thing.

1h Like Reply Message Hide



Marc Patrone

Do you 'hang out' around elementary schools a lot? You look like the type.

## DOES FRANK KNOW?

NEWS TIPS HOTLINE: 1-888-335-5505

### And what of the horses, has he forgotten about the horses?

"You'll never be fully vaxxed again my friends. Yeah, that was just a sham. Just more of a scam that the country pushed. All you can hope for now is just being up to date. Yeah, that according to the government itself. Canadian government pushing shots every nine months. Whether ya think ya need one or not. Doesn't matter to them. Will the sheep comply? Will the sheep do what the pigs are telling them to do? We shall see."

— *The Marc Patrone Show*, July 4, 2022. "Marc Goes Ballistic Over the New Covid Shot Rules."

### Blackie needs billions, the Rodeo Kings require somewhat less.

"These little Nazis have loaded up on hundreds of millions of doses. Not sure how much Blackface is getting in the form of kickbacks, I'm sure it's a pretty sweet pack of money. Remember, this scumbag wants to be a player, right. So he can hang with billionaires... the Bill Gateses of the world and those types of people. You need billions, and that's what Blackface is goin' for and that takes a lot of bribery. That takes a lot of moolah if you wanna run with that crowd right Blackie? And that means forced shots, and you're gonna be punished big time if you do not comply."

— *Ibid.*

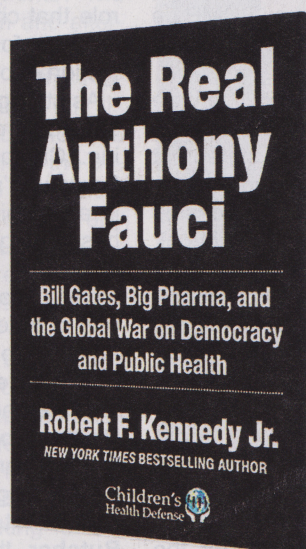
### Euthanize 'em with the vaccine (*Two birds, one shot!* — ed.)

"There are some making the case that the state should decide what goes into your body, depending on the (*scare quotes alert!* — ed.) collective interest, yeah. Making you essentially what, property of the state? Property of the government? I'm still waiting for a poll that says Canadians would support euthanizing the unvaccinated. Yep, sadly the unthinkable is no longer so."

— *The MPS*, January 17

"What kind of backstabbing sub-human garbage @JustinTrudeau targets a nation's food supply? He's literally taking food off your family's table. The guy is a f&ck@ng monster."

— *Marc Patrone*, Twitter, July 24, 2022, on the PM's plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions from fertilizer by 30%.



### THE MARC PATRONE LITERARY REVIEW

#### In more ways than one!

"RFK thinks that Fauci is well, frankly, evil in many ways and he's written about it in this book... It's a pretty dense book."

— *The Marc Patrone Show*, January 7, "Karen Selick on RFK JR Blockbuster Book."

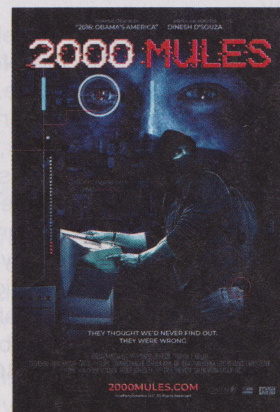


### MARC PATRONE ON CINEMA

#### Those who feel the 2020 election was stolen...

"People obviously want to see this movie. Particularly those who feel that the 2020 election was stolen from Donald Trump in a concerted, wide-ranging conspiracy by very organized, well-funded group of people who pushed these mules who funded this through the use of so-called mules. It's interesting, the video is very compelling, because it shows these guys, sometimes showing up in the middle of the night, with handfuls of ballots that were placed in a drop box and sometimes there were often pictures taken. So that these people supposedly were able to collect money in order to show that they in fact did drop off these ballots. And if you had enough mules, dropping off enough ballots in enough drop boxes, guess what, you can spin an election."

— *The MPS*, May 10, 2022. "Marc Looks at 2000 Mules, the Documentary About the Stolen 2020 Election."



"The film claims, but never shows in its footage, that individual 'mules' stuffed drop box after drop box... (Republican operative Gregg) Phillips said such footage exists, but (director Dinesh) D'Souza said it wasn't included because 'it's not easy to tell from the images themselves that it is the same person.' Those claims are purportedly backed up by tracking cellphone data, but the film's methods of analysis have been pilloried in numerous fact-checks... (Conservative vote-monitoring org) True the Vote declined to offer tangible proof — Mr. Phillips calls his methodology a 'trade secret'."

— *A Big Lie in a New Package*, *New York Times*, May 29/22.

"At its heart, '2000 Mules' is a triumph of capitalism. There's huge demand for proving that Trump didn't lose in 2020, and this film provides just enough of a veneer of authority to let people collapse comfortably into that belief. That it doesn't survive even mild external scrutiny is as irrelevant as pointing out contradictions in a religious text is to recent converts: They want to believe what they want to believe."

— '2000 Mules' Offers the Least Convincing Election-Fraud Theory Yet, *the Washington Post*, May 11/22

#### Those who feel the 2020 election was stolen, including myself...

"This was an absolutely monstrous crime. One of the worst, monstrous attacks on democracy that the world has seen. It has to be exposed, it absolutely must be exposed."

— *The MPS*, May 10.

# Still wagging that Brink's tale

At a time when one might think that the **Mass Casualty Commission** has all but buried the notion that **Gabriel Wortman** was either an **RCMP** informant or, even worse, a paid agent, there are significant holes in the official story that suggest otherwise, according to informed sources.

One source, close to the operations of **Brink's Security**, says they were aware of details of the March 30, 2020 transaction in which Wortman made an unusual and even unprecedented withdrawal of \$475,000 in \$100 bills from the **Brink's Security Depot** at **19 Ilsley Avenue** in the **Burnside Industrial Park** in **Dartmouth**. Security camera video shows Wortman entering the Brink's lot, going into a "man room" in the building, signing a slip and leaving with a pouch containing the money.

"The authorization to release the money was signed by the **New Brunswick RCMP**," insists the source.

The money that Wortman received came from the **CIBC** bank, but was routed through **CIBC Intria**, a subsidiary company that typically provides cash for ATM machines. That Wortman was able to have money delivered by **CIBC Intria** to Brinks for pickup was highly irregular and contravened all banking regulations, says a banking insider aware of the **CIBC's** set up and protocols.

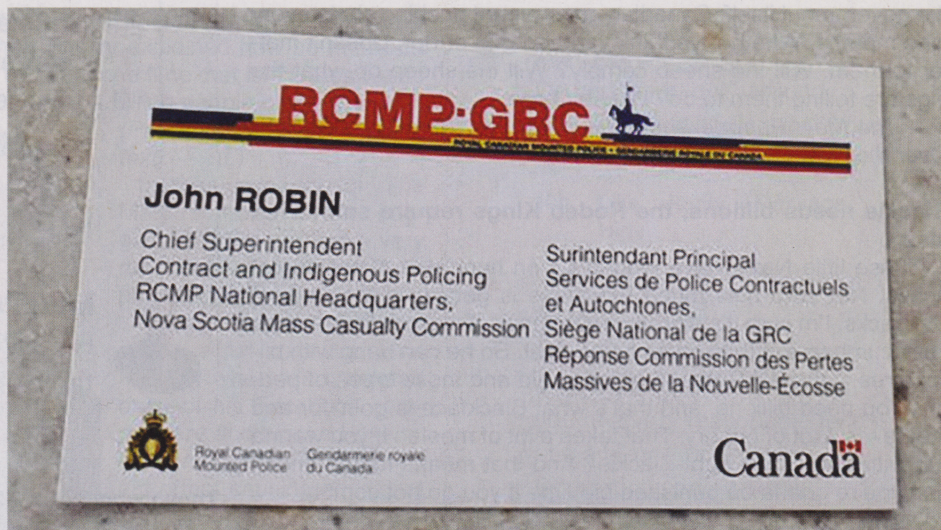
"The first rule of banking is that you count out the money in front of the customer," the banking source said.

"It's all done in person and is filmed. You can't let \$475,000 walk out the door just like that. That's everyone's year end bonus. The money is counted and signed for. If this was Wortman's personal money, the bank would never send it through **Intria** and then have the customer pick it up in a pouch without counting it. There's too much room for error. That just wouldn't happen. What this all tells me is that they bent the rules for him because it likely wasn't his personal money. There was something else going on there."

Both sources are reluctant to go on the record at this time for what should be obvious reasons, but one might reasonably conclude that the three Commissioners running what we've taken to calling the **Spinquiry** would be eager to dig deep into these allegations.

Such is not the case.

Let's examine what the Commission did and didn't do.



John "Mr. Janis Gray" Robin's dodgy business card.

The \$475,000 cash withdrawal by Wortman has put the **RCMP** and its enablers on the defensive since it was first reported in June 2020 in **MacLean's** magazine by me, **Stephen Maher** and **Shannon Gormley**.

In that and a follow-up story, we reported that informed police sources told us that the money pick up had all the hallmarks of an undercover operation. Subsequently, as reported in my recent book and in these pages, we have reported additional sourcing for similar transactions involving the **RCMP** in **New Brunswick** and in **Western Canada**.



Paul Palango

In a June 4, 2020 public update **RCMP Superintendent Darren Campbell** made a statement that the **RCMP** could find "no evidence" of a special relationship between Wortman and the force.

More recently, Campbell provided a more forceful written statement to the **MCC** that was co-signed by **Superintendent David Astephen**, a former **Halifax** Mountie who is now director of **RCMP National Covert Operations**.

"There was never any special relationship of any kind between Gabriel Wortman and the **RCMP**. This includes the fact that Wortman was never a confidential informant nor a civilian police agent for the **RCMP**. Furthermore, a review of our departmental security records indicates that Wortman was never employed by, nor a volunteer with, the **RCMP**."

"The standard law-enforcement practise is not to release information about whether someone was, or was not, a confidential informant. This 'neither confirm,

nor deny' policy is in keeping with the **Supreme Court of Canada's** description of informer privilege as being of 'fundamental importance' and 'an ancient and hallowed protection which plays a vital role in law enforcement'... If law enforcement regularly confirmed that certain individuals were not confidential informants while refusing to do the same for others, we would in effect undermine our legal obligation to protect informer privilege where it does exist. Such a practise would not only put confidential informants at risk of serious harm, but also discourage the important role that citizens who provide information to law enforcement play in the overall protection of public safety."

As strong as the denial appears to be, it should come with a "buyer beware" warning. Campbell is now helping run **New Brunswick's "J" Division**, where there is a seemingly impenetrable lid on what has been going on there over the past few years.

Even more interesting is the fact that one of Astephen's predecessors as director of **National Covert Operations** was **Superintendent John Robin**.

Remember him? The husband of then **Halifax County RCMP** boss **Janis Gray**, Robin inserted himself into the **Nova Scotia Investigation** in April 2021. His sidekick in that ruse was former Mountie **Mike Butcher**, the husband of then **Assistant Commissioner Leona (Lee) Bergerman**.

Robin pretended to be assigned to the **Mass Casualty Commission**. He even had a business card proclaiming his make-believe office. That's what covert operations does. It's sneaky. Deceptive. And has a lot of tricks up its sleeve.

Continued on next page



**Definitely-not-an-RCMP-CI Gabriel Wortman saunters into the Brink's Security Depot on March 30, 2020.**

#### **Brink's, from previous page**

In spite of Campbell and Astephen's declaration to the contrary, there is the very real possibility that the RCMP has merely doubled down on the big lie about Wortman. That would be the smart move for a desperate organization. After all, who would dare challenge them? Governments? The ocularly challenged mainstream and alternative media?

Under Part 31.1, section 3.3 of the RCMP's covert operational manual this is stated: "The identity of a source must be protected at all times except when the administration of justice requires otherwise, i.e. a member cannot mislead a court in any proceeding in order to protect a source."

Protecting the identity of covert sources — even after their death — is standard policing procedure.

The police can lie to anyone but a judge in a courtroom setting. The Inquiry is not a court. **J. Michael MacDonald**, the chief commissioner, is a former judge, not a sitting judge. The stakes for the RCMP and governments are enormous, if Wortman were found to have been working for the RCMP. There is good reason for the powers that be to mislead the public. That being the case, one would expect that they would show their every card to prove their position, but that is not what they have done.

Opinions masquerading as facts are dished out. There are gaping omissions. What should be there, just isn't there.



**It's OK for the Mounties to lie to MCC honcho J. Michael MacDonald.**

In July, the Mass Casualty Commission dumped hundreds of pages of Wortman's financial records and emails between him and the CIBC. It all looked to be thorough, indisputable and daunting. In those documents, Wortman was shown to be liquidating guaranteed investment certificates (GICs) because of his fear of a banking collapse due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In

the emails Wortman pleaded to have the monies sent to Brink's. It was an unprecedented event and, as we pointed out in this magazine recently, hasn't been repeated since.

"It was the first time, and I've worked there for three years, that we ever had an arrangement like that," Brinks employee **Tiyana Gillis** said in a statement to the MCC.

"Yeah, it was, it was odd."

It's important to note that Wortman purchased the GICs in 2016 and 2017. The Commission and the RCMP, however, could not determine the origin of the funds that Wortman had used. Wortman's own financial records showed a rather paltry income for his businesses, his personal accounts and those of **Lisa Banfield**, who made around \$15,000 one year but drove a flashy **Mercedes Benz**.

In combing through Wortman's records, forensic accountants working for the RCMP said they could not find the sources of Wortman's money. That's extremely curious for two reasons.

One: A quality banking source points out that notes on such matters are made and stored forever. And in many cases regular retail customers can access those notes.

Two: In Lisa Banfield, who fielded almost every phone call for Wortman and who shared a bank account with him, the RCMP and the MCC had a potential co-operating witness.

Did they ask her?

**Continued on next page**

## Brink's, from previous page

There appears to be nothing in the public record about her describing the couple's cash flow and its origins and no way to account for the \$705,000 in cash that the RCMP found hidden outside Wortman's burned-out cottage.

Nevertheless, MCC investigator **Dwayne King** offered this opinion in his report to the MCC:

"As a result of the writers reviewing all of the evidence currently available to the Commission, it is the opinion of the writer that:

- The \$705,000 in cash is not the direct proceeds of street level drug trafficking;
- The \$475,000 in cash picked up by the perpetrator from Brinks is not payment relating to a confidential informant;
- There is not sufficient information available to form an opinion on the original source of funds from the \$475,000 in cash withdrawn by the perpetrator. There is also insufficient information available to form an opinion on the source of the \$230,000 in currency that made up a portion of the \$705,000 in currency that was seized."

It should be noted that **Toronto Police Department** sources describe King as being part of then former **Police Chief Bill Blair's** inner circle on the force before he moved on to politics. Blair was the federal **Public Safety** minister at the time of the massacres and was instrumental in setting up the Mass Casualty Commission and its wonky mandate.

Next comes the comment from the Brink's-linked source about the New Brunswick RCMP authorizing the release of the monies.

One of the source documents we could not find in Wortman's financial records released by the Mass Casualty Commission was the release he was filmed signing before being handed the \$475,000.

In statements released by the MCC, Brink's manager **Marcel Briand** does not address the issue of who authorized the transaction. He was not called as a live witness.

The link to the RCMP in New Brunswick is an important one and entirely unexplored by the MCC.

Police sources both within and outside the RCMP point to two long-term relationships with police officers that they found suspicious.

One was with Halifax **Constable Barry Warnell**, the longest serving police officer on the force. Until around 2007, Warnell was considered to be an undercover specialist who dabbled in real estate on the side. In a statement to the MCC, he said his relationship with Wortman was based on their mutual business interests. The MCC did not dig into the details.

RCMP **Constable Greg Wiley** also

stated that he visited Wortman 16 times at his **Portapique** cottage between the years 2008 and 2017. Wiley had no notes of the visits and did not appear to file reports on the visits, which police sources say was odd. Wiley did, however, vaguely state that Wortman was passing on information about criminal activities in the area.

"I knew the value of having a few people in the community that you go to, and ironically, this is the irony of it, I was going to a guy, him of all guys and asking, um, 'Is there anything that we should know about or anyone — anyone that should be on our radar?' And isn't it ironic how things have turned out?" said Wiley.

To a policeman's ear that sounds like Wortman was a budding informant.

"It's very suspicious," said a former senior Mountie.

"There are repeated visits and no records of what happened. That's not the way it should go if everything is on the up-and-up."

In 2017, Wiley stopped seeing Wortman. The date is interesting.

That year, New Brunswick RCMP boss, **Assistant Commissioner Larry Tremblay**, moved to take over all anti-outlaw biker operations in the **Maritimes**.

The question then becomes: Was it merely a co-incidence that Const. Wiley stopped dropping in on Wortman in 2017 or was there something deeper going on?

If Wortman was indeed an agent, he would have been working for not only the New Brunswick RCMP but possibly other law enforcement agencies, including Halifax police and the **Canadian Border Security Agency**, multiple sources speculate.

If his cover was blown, as some police sources believe it was, then Wortman was a man either on the run or headed into witness protection.

The opinion by Dwayne King dismissing Wortman's involvement in criminal activities dovetails perfectly with the position taken by the MCC. It has shown no interest in the past almost six months of hearings delving into Wortman's criminal past or possible connections to the RCMP or other police forces.

Finally, there is the source who is familiar with both CIBC and CIBC Inria operations.

In its document dump, the MCC did not release any supporting documents from Inria showing either the authorization for the release of the monies and other directions that it might have received.

"I don't care what the Commission is saying," said the CIBC-Inria source, "The story doesn't work for me. Banks are fastidious about the rules. This transaction flew under the radar of **FinTrac (Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada)**. Why would the bank

do this for Gabriel Wortman and no one else? It doesn't make sense. If Wortman could do it and get around FinTrac, every criminal would be doing this."

A tricky story like this one is the inevitable result of the approach taken by the MCC in its proscribed, blinkered, cautious and politically correct mandate.

It conducts its proceedings in a "trauma-informed" fashion which means it doesn't want to upset anyone — except for those, including Mounties, who refuse to toe the line and stick to the preferred narrative. They can be savaged.

It's not trying to find fault or assign blame, and then skips over inconvenient details and refuses to pin the tail on the donkey.

It bombs us with thousands of pages of predigested "interviews" and "statements" but lawyers are restricted from conducting proper cross examinations.

What we're left with is the RCMP's proven ineptitude, deceptions and lies, all wrapped in a stifling blanket of secrecy, which naturally fuels suspicion and skepticism.

The Mass Casualty Commission's go-to response is that there is only one truth — *their truth* — and a fact is not a fact in its view unless it comes from the three Commissioners, the federal government and its bevy of lawyers, the RCMP or approved and vetted witnesses.

It has weaponized the concept of conspiracy theorism.

The Commissioner agreed with Lisa Banfield's pricy lawyer, **James Lockyer**, that her being cross examined by anyone but Commission legal counsel would lead to a feeding frenzy of conspiracy theories. Imagine that. Banfield spent 19 years with an eventually murderous criminal but she's too fragile to be challenged about what she did and didn't know about him and his activities. That's a novel definition of transparency, if ever there was one.

Those very same lawyers for the families were told that they can't roam outside the established boundaries of the Mass Casualty Commission's "foundational documents" because that, too, would invite conspiracy theories. No questions about touchy things like Wortman's criminal history or questionable reports by the **Serious Incident Response Team**, the police lap, er, watchdog.

In spite of all their efforts and vigilance to control the narrative, a lingering and pervasive odor continues to rise from the Mass Casualty Commission.

There is a legal term whose meaning could be adapted to describe what has been going on.

Res Ipsa Loquitur — the thing speaks for itself.

[paulpalango@protonmail.com](mailto:paulpalango@protonmail.com)



Darren Campbell (left) & Chris Leather testify at the MCC hearings.

# Anatomy of an apology

By Paul Palango

**RCMP Superintendent Darren Campbell** apologized to the surviving families of the victims and spilled a tear or two in the process in his recent testimony before the **Mass Casualty Commission** inquiry.

He was followed for two days by **Chief Superintendent Chris Leather**, who conceded that he “missed the mark” on that terrible weekend of April 18 and 19, 2020 when demented dentist **Gabriel Wortman** killed 22 **Nova Scotians** in two rampages over a 13.5-hour-long period.

Wow! Contrition, finally, from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The important question: was it sincere, or was it all just part of the master RCMP playbook when it comes to dealing with uncomfortable controversies like this one?

Deny. Deflect. Lie. And, if none of that works, Cry.

What we’ve taken to calling the Spinqury meandered for more than five months and 74 or so sessions to get to Campbell and Leather. By the time they did, it should be noted, it was the last week of July. Most people were likely kicking back and relaxing, tuned out to the impossible narrative presented by the “trauma-informed” commission.

Let’s look at what was likely going on by adding some valuable and needed context and history, notions to which our friends in the mainstream and alternative media seem to be acutely allergic when they report the news.

To fully appreciate what was going on, we must begin with the barrage of information that spewed out of the MCC pipeline in the days before Campbell and Leather were called upon.

Much of the previous two weeks was consumed with panel hearings and testimony about “gender-based and intimate-partner violence.” This was all orchestrated as a buildup to the unchallenged “testimony” of Wortman’s common-law wife, **Lisa Banfield**.

As you may recall, lawyers for the family were not allowed to cross-examine her out of fear that digging for truth would only lead to more “conspiracy theories.” Yep, you heard that right.

Two things happened on Friday July 23, effectively the working day before Campbell was called the following Monday to give his evidence.

First, there was the damning testimony of two professors, **Kristy Martire** from the **University of New South Wales** in **Sydney, Australia**, and **Tess Neal** from the **University of Arizona**. They concluded that the RCMP’s much touted “psychological autopsy” was nothing but bunk, mere public-relations window dressing that was devoured whole by the mainstream media back in the late spring of 2020 when it was first announced.

Lawyer and MCC critic **Adam Rodgers** questioned why Martire and Neal were hired for the job over local talent “perhaps done so for a fraction of the cost.”

Rodgers also made some other interesting observations: “These experts were not contracted to provide the MCC with their own, or an alternate, forensic psychological assessment of the killer. There does not appear to be any plan to have one performed either. At least the MCC has not stated that one is forthcoming. So, we do not have access to the RCMP report, and will not receive an independent report analyzing the psyche of the killer. This seems like a shortcoming for an inquiry that, among other things, is trying to figure out why a person committed a mass shooting.

“Martire and Neal were highly critical of the RCMP assessment. They did not even know what to call it, noting that it also had elements of a retrospective behavioural profile and a retrospective risk assessment, both of which (in their view) are different than a psychological autopsy. The author of the report, **Dr. Matt Logan**, was noted not even to be a certified psychologist in **Canada**, despite referring to himself as a “criminal psychologist,” a term which the experts testified does not exist in the field,” Rodgers said.

The second thing that the MCC slipped by most of the public was a statement from a Mountie who had been hidden from public sight for more than two years. He is **Superintendent Archie Thompson**. He was the senior officer in command of **Northeast Nova**, where most of the murders occurred.

Continued on next page

## Apology, from previous page

Thompson said he chose to stay home that night and not actively become part of the RCMP response at a command post.

"I wouldn't want to do that and inject myself into the investigation... The rank, the colour of the uniform tends to have an impact when I show up," Thompson said.

Now retired, Thompson was not called to testify or be cross examined about his version of events.

Superintendent Campbell came to testify under a bit of a cloud, having complained that **Commissioner Brenda Lucki** had tried to politically interfere in the Nova Scotia investigation on behalf of the prime minister and other politicians.

The RCMP has never laid a serious charge in any of it and has all but disappeared key witnesses such as ex-con **Peter Griffon**, Wortman's biker-connected handyman and replica police car decorator.

Before he even testified, Campbell was given a sideways promotion and sent off to **New Brunswick**.

He returned to Nova Scotia and spent two days talking and answering some questions from lawyers at the MCC hearings. In the minds of some, he appeared to have acquitted himself well. Some people were moved by how Campbell had comported himself, right down to his tears of apparent contrition. Isn't it amazing how a few well-timed tears can cause so many people to suspend their disbelief?

A former senior RCMP member sent me this message: "As a retired Superintendent... I'd like to say some complimentary words on the Supt's appearance and testimony before the commission. Is there somewhere I can post them?"

I told the former Mountie that there was more going on here than the media had let on.

"The thing you have to remember is that lawyers for the families were not allowed by the Commission to ask a variety of questions. The fact of the matter is that for 27 months The RCMP has stated that its response was near perfect and that it would do the same thing in a similar situation. Now, the force's leaders are saying otherwise," I wrote.

"Thanks, Paul," he replied. "On 2<sup>nd</sup> thought, I'll leave it alone."

That's the part that we are not allowed to see. While it might appear to be a normal process going on at the inquiry (*spinquiry, shurely!* — *ed.*), it is anything but. The lawyers for the families have strict limitations about what they can pursue.

When it came to questioning Campbell, two sources tell me that the lawyers were restricted from asking questions about charges that were laid against Lisa Banfield, which were subsequently dropped.

The lawyers were also prohibited by the MCC from asking Campbell about anything

involving Banfield having spent the night in the woods around **Portapique** or her subsequent emergence at 6:30 am. No questions were allowed about her alleged abuse at the hands of Wortman.

They couldn't ask questions about the role played by other RCMP officers, one of them being then **Inspector Dustine Rodier**, who was promoted to Superintendent recently. Rodier was in charge of the 911 Centre and other communications and was previously the commanding officer at the **Hampton, N.B.** detachment.

The family's lawyers also could not broach the subject of investigations by the **Serious Incident Response Team** into the shoot-up of the **Onslow Belmont** firehall or the killing of Wortman at the **Irving Big Stop** on the morning of April 19<sup>th</sup>. Security video from that incident appear to refute the testimony of two RCMP officers before the MCC, but the Commission ruled that line of inquiry was out of bounds.

As one lawyer put it: "Unless we had an actual documentary evidence on which to base a question, we couldn't ask. Otherwise, it was promoting 'conspiracy theories'."

That in a nutshell explains the ultimate purpose of the MCC's innovative use of what it calls "foundational documents."

Every witness called to testify has been essentially vetted through previous interviews which are captured in the foundational documents. Over the past six months, these documents have either been dribbled out or released in a torrent, all but overwhelming anyone trying to absorb the information contained within them.

Meanwhile, things get left out here and there, like the supporting documents for much of the financial information about Wortman that was recently released.

Where are they and why weren't they available before Campbell and Leather were questioned?

Sometimes the witnesses in the foundational documents have been called to appear in the public forum, many other times not. The only rhyme or reason about who gets called seems to be whether their version of events serves the larger intended narrative that is desired by the powers to be.

The last witness to be called before the MCC's summer break was Chief Supt. Leather.

As previously reported in **Frank Magazine**, Leather is not a natural Mountie. He started his career in **York Region** outside of **Toronto** and was one of the rare Mounties to join the force as an officer. He came to Nova Scotia in September 2019 as the Criminal Operations Officer (CROPs). His previous assignment in federal policing — **Project Busbar** — an international drug smuggling investigation in **Ontario** had ended in a fiasco. As is so often the case in the RCMP, he was nevertheless promoted and moved

to a distant posting — Nova Scotia — in a page ripped out of the **Catholic Church** personnel manual.

Looking surprisingly gaunt and nervous, one couldn't help but get the impression that Leather is a man who knows he is under the gun. The chosen scapegoat.

From the time we first met him during the RCMP press conference alongside **Assistant Commissioner Lee Bergerman**, Leather did not make a great first impression. He seemed unsure of himself, nervous, almost sick to his stomach.

In the few statements he made after the massacres, he was clearly following the RCMP mantra — deny, deflect etc.

Leather was on the record as defending the RCMP response. He said that he would not change a thing about it. He would rely on **Twitter**. He wouldn't put out a public alert.

Now, he appears to have undergone a bit of a change of heart.

Like Campbell, Leather has supported the political interference story involving Commissioner Lucki which, considering his current posting in federal policing in Ottawa — shoulder to shoulder with Lucki — was either extremely unwise or part of a larger charade.

Leather protested during the hearing that he was compelled to be "honest," but it's too early to tell what actually is going on. From day one Leather genuinely appears to have been in the dark about what was really going on with Wortman before and during the rampages. Maybe he actually was.

There is an important clue, however, that there is more intrigue than first meets the eye.

Leather appeared a few days earlier in **Ottawa** to testify before the **House Committee on Public Safety and Security**, which is eager to probe the Lucki political interference story.

He brought along with him his personal lawyer.

Why does Chris Leather need his own lawyer when it's quite clear that the federal Crown is prepared to spend tens of millions of dollars to defend all the Mounties?

Does Leather see himself as the designated scapegoat?

A source in Ottawa, close to the committee, said that Leather's lawyer has indicated that he is holding an "insurance policy" for his client.

This has turned into a **Quentin Tarantino**-esque **Mexican** standoff, right here in Nova Scotia. Just about everyone is armed with a lawyer and aiming their metaphorical guns at everyone else.

You'd think that, before long, something's gotta give.

*paulpalango@protonmail.com*

**Paul Palango is author of the best-selling book 22 Murders: Investigating the massacres, cover-up and obstacles to justice in Nova Scotia (Random House).**



Michael Scott of Patterson Law, which represents a large portion of the victims' families, tells media during a break in Lisa Banfield's testimony on July 15 that his clients have seen enough.

# The Lockyer factor

By Paul Palango

If you haven't already noticed, something truly strange happened on the road to finding the truth about what actually happened before, during and after the **Nova Scotia** massacres of April 18 and 19, 2020.

**Lisa Banfield** and her \$1,200-an-hour lawyer, **James Lockyer**, appear to have been controlling the show from the very beginning. The Lockyer factor as a not-so-hidden influencer on the news is important to address.

On April 19, 2020, just hours after Lisa Banfield arrived at the door of **Leon Joudrey**, she contacted lawyer **Kevin von Bargen** in **Toronto** to seek advice and help. The lawyer, a friend of **Gabriel Wortman** and Banfield, put her onto James Lockyer.

From that moment forward, her every word has been treated as gospel. By the **RCMP**, by the **Mass Casualty Commission**, and by the compliant media. Even those who believe her to have been a victim of domestic violence at the hands of Wortman (and she clearly was), but also believe she might know more than she's letting on — and that what she knows might be important to the inquiry's purported fact-finding mission — have been dismissed as cranks and conspiracists.

According to financial documents released by the inquiry after Lisa Banfield's dramatic "testimony" on July 15, Banfield reported earnings of \$15,288 one recent year.

That would cover a day, plus HST, of Lockyer's valuable time.

He has been on the clock for 27 months or so, his fees covered by taxpayers through the Mass Casualty Commission.

Banfield's finances, such as they are, would have been a juicy subject for any cu-

rious lawyer, but she wasn't allowed to be cross examined. Too traumatic, remember.

Questions abound.

Why did Banfield hire an esteemed criminal lawyer? Did no one let her in on her status as a victim?

Lockyer seems like an exotic choice. He made his name from the early '90s onward representing men wrongly convicted of murder, such as **Stephen Truscott**, **David Milgaard**, **Robert Baltovich** and **Guy Paul Morin**. Morin was falsely accused of killing nine-year-old **Christine Jessop** in **Queensville, Ontario**, near **Toronto**.

I was the city editor at the **Globe and Mail** then. I was intimately involved in the story which was being covered by one of our reporters, **Kirk Makin**. I even at one point had a meeting with Makin and Morin's mother, who protested his innocence. At the time I was wrongly unmoved and skeptical of her story, but Makin persisted in digging into it and worked closely with Lockyer. Morin was eventually exonerated. Kudos to all. I hope I got smarter after that.

Lockyer, who lived a block away from me in Toronto, went on to become a champion of the wrongly convicted and started the **Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted (Innocence Canada)** to work on their behalf. He worked closely with AIDWC's first executive director, **Rubin (Hurricane) Carter**, the former boxer who was wrongly convicted of three murders in **Patterson, N.J.**, and was the inspiration for the 1976 **Bob Dylan** epic **Hurricane**.

In recent years, Lockyer and Innocence Canada became involved in the case of **Nova Scotia's Glenn Assoun**, who was wrongly convicted in 1999 of murdering **Brenda Way** in **Dartmouth** four years earlier.



Lawyer James Lockyer

Lockyer worked along with lawyers **Sean MacDonald** and **Phil Campbell** to have Assoun's conviction overturned after he had spent 17 years in prison. In the final years of that campaign, an activist reporter named **Tim Bousquet** took on the Assoun case and wrote about it extensively for years, channelling and publicizing what the lawyers and their investigators had uncovered. To his credit Bousquet uncovered some things on his own.

Perhaps the biggest revelation in the Assoun case was that the RCMP had destroyed evidence and had misled the courts about Assoun.

Bousquet joined with the **CBC** in 2020 and produced a radio series, **Dead Wrong**, about the case. As **Canadians** should know well by now, both the federal and Nova Scotia governments ignored what the Mounties were caught doing.

Fast forward to the Nova Scotia massacres and the news coverage of it.

Continued on next page

Lockyer, from previous page

As I wrote in my recent book, *22 Murders: Investigating the Massacres, Cover-up and Obstacles to Justice In Nova Scotia*, I had a brief fling with Bousquet and his on-line newspaper, *The Halifax Examiner*, in 2020.

After publishing an opening salvo in *Maclean's* magazine in May 2020, I couldn't find anyone else interested in my reporting, which challenged the official narrative. *Maclean's* writer **Stephen Maher** introduced me to Bousquet. I knew nothing about either him or the *Halifax Examiner*.

Over the next several weeks, Bousquet published five of my pieces and I was pleasantly surprised to find that the *Examiner* punched well above its weight. Its stories were being picked up and read across the country. Although I had never met the gruff and the usually difficult-to-reach Bousquet, I thought we had a mutual interest in keeping the story alive as the mainstream media was losing interest in it and were moving on. At first blush, Bousquet seemed like a true, objective journalist determined to find the truth. Hell, I was even prepared to work for nothing, just to get the story out.

"I have to pay you, man," he insisted in one phone call.

I felt badly taking money from him. I had no idea what his company's financial situation might be, and I didn't want to break the bank. He said he could pay me \$300 or so per story and asked me to submit an invoice, which I did.

Soon afterward, a cheque for \$1,500 arrived. I cashed it and then my wife **Sharon** and I sent him \$500 each in after tax money as a donation. Like I said, I didn't want to be a drag on the *Examiner*.

Once we made the donations, Bousquet all but ghosted me. He was always too busy to take my calls or field my pitches. I couldn't tell if I was being cancelled or had been conned.

I began to replay events in my head and the one thing that leapt out to me was Bousquet's defensive and even dismissive reaction to two threads I thought were important and newsworthy which I wanted to write about.

One was the politically sensitive issue of writing objectively about all the women in the story. There were female victims who had slept with Wortman, which I thought was contextually important in understanding the larger story. Bousquet had made it clear that he wasn't eager for me to write about that. (*Be trauma informed!* — ed.)

There was also the fact that female police officers were at the intersection of almost every major event that terrible weekend. The commanding officer was **Leona (Lee) Bergerman**. Chief Superintendent **Janis Gray** was in charge of the RCMP in **Halifax County**. Inspector **Dustine Rodier** ran the communications centre. It was a long list that will continue to grow.

I believe in equal pay for work of equal value, but that comes with equal accountability for all. I am gender neutral when evaluating

performance.

But it didn't take psychic powers to detect that gender politics was a big issue with Bousquet — his target market, as it were.

I really wanted to write about Banfield. My preliminary research strongly suggested to me her story was riddled with weakness and inconsistency, but nobody in the mainstream media would tackle it. Hell, for months her name wasn't even published anywhere outside these pages.

Bousquet's position was that Banfield was a victim of domestic violence and that her story, via vague, second-hand and untested RCMP statements, was to be believed. No questions asked.

"You're going to need something really big to convince me otherwise," Bousquet said in one of our brief conversations.

Afterward, I did have one face-to-face meeting with him in **Halifax**. He actually sat in the back seat of our car because Sharon was in the front. We met up because I wanted to tell him about sensitive leads I had which, if pursued, would show that the RCMP had the ability to manipulate its records and destroy evidence in its PROs reporting system.

Considering his involvement in the Assoun case, where that very issue was at the heart of Assoun's exoneration, I thought Bousquet would be eager to pursue the story.

As I looked at him in the rearview mirror, I could sense his discomfort and lack of interest. So could Sharon who was sitting beside me.

"That was weird," she said.

Bousquet got out of the car, walked away and disappeared me for good.

It was all so inexplicable. If this was the new journalism that I was experiencing, there was something terribly wrong with it. I couldn't believe that a journalist like Bousquet who aspired to be a truth-teller felt compelled to distill every word or nuance through a political filter first or even something more nefarious.

Later, while writing for *Frank Magazine*, I broke story after story about the case. Incontrovertible documents showing that the RCMP was destroying evidence in the Wortman case. The **Pictou County Public Safety** channel recordings showing for the first time what the RCMP was doing on the ground during the early morning hours of April 19. The 911 tapes. The **Enfield Big Stop** videos. That Lisa Banfield lied in **Small Claims Court** on two different occasions.

Bousquet either ignored or ridiculed most of those stories in the *Halifax Examiner* or on his **Twitter** feed, as if I were making the stories up.

For the most part throughout 2021, the *Halifax Examiner* didn't even bother covering the larger story. There was no discernible legwork or energy being expended on it. And regarding the stories he did publish, I began to see a pattern. Naïve readers might have thought that he was digging for new stories when in fact the *Examiner* was merely mining court documents and uncritically reporting

what resided therein. It was all stenography, straight from the mouths of the RCMP and the MCC.

Time and time again, "new" stories would be published which were essentially no different from previous ones but all with the same theme: as **Ray Davies** of the **Kinks** put it in his masterpiece *Sunny Afternoon*: "Tales of drunkenness and cruelty."

The **Monster and the Maiden** stories, as I called them, reinforced in readers minds that Banfield was a helpless victim controlled by a demonic Wortman, a narrative that, upon reflection, seemed to perfectly suit Lockyer's strategy.

For 27 months the RCMP and the Mass Casualty Commission played along, sheltering Banfield as part of their "trauma-informed" mandate, even though there was plenty to be skeptical about in her story.

Banfield was beside Wortman for 19 years, during which he committed crime after crime. She was reportedly the last person to be with Wortman and her incredible, hoary tale of escape should have been enough to raise suspicions about her.

From the moment she knocked on Leon Joudrey's door she has been treated as a victim, which to this day astounds law enforcement experts and others who have monitored the case. Many observers, including but not limited to lawyers representing the families of the victims, have serious questions about how Banfield spent the overnight hours of April 18/19. Not helping matters is that she doesn't appear to have been subjected to any level of normal criminal investigation or evidence gathering. Her clothing wasn't tested. There were no gunshot residue tests. She wasn't subjected to a polygraph or any other credible investigative procedure. Enter James Lockyer of the Innocence Project.

As we moved closer to July 15, the day that Banfield would be "testifying" at the MCC, it is also important to consider what Bousquet and his minions were doing at the *Halifax Examiner*.

In the weeks and days leading up to Banfield's appearance, the *Examiner's* reporting and Bousquet's Twitter commentary began to take on an illogical, more contemptuous and even hostile approach to anyone who refused to buy into the RCMP and Banfield's official version of events.

In a series of hilariously one-sided diatribes, Bousquet lashed out at Banfield's critics whom he wouldn't name. Some (likely us) were "bad-faith actors." He decried the "witchification" of Banfield.

He tweeted: "And just to repeat for the 1000<sup>th</sup> time: I've read transcripts of interviews with dozens of people. I've read three years' of emails between Banfield and GW. I've read her **Notes** app. There is ZERO evidence that she had any prior knowledge (of) GW's intent to kill people... The notion that she is 'complicit' is pulled out of people's diarrhetic asses and plain old-fashioned misogyny."

Continued on Page 35

# The massive hole in this piece, so large you could drive a truck (or even a mock RCMP cruiser) through it...

Stephen Kimber's main argument (aside from Misogyny! Conspiracy!) is that **Patterson Law** is working double time to poke holes in **Lisa Banfield's** story in support of their clients' quest to wring as much as possible from their civil action against Banfield and the estate.



## Drivel

If you accept that, you also have to at least consider that **James Lockyer** is working double time to portray Lisa Banfield as a blameless, upstanding citizen because she's trying to protect as much as possible of her claim from **Wortman's** estate.

**Guysborough** lawyer **Adam Rodgers** addresses just that with his musings on Banfield's testimony. Notes Adam, Lisa "now has a clear financial interest in denying knowledge of those criminal activities as she tries to retain entitlement to **Gabriel Wortman's** estate." Not to mention: "If one of her Restorative Justice commitments was to provide testimony during the **MCC**, she has fulfilled that, but certainly did so in a minimal fashion."

It should be up to the **MCC** to ignore all of those concerns and plow ahead in its quest for the truth. But the inquiry is bending over

## Lisa Banfield and the search for 'truth'

Cross-examination isn't the only valid — or always best — truth-seeking method for testing evidence. And, in light of last week's controversy over Lisa Banfield's appearance before the Mass Casualty Commission, it's worth asking whether truth was all that was being sought.

JULY 17, 2022 BY STEPHEN KIMBER

4 COMMENTS



Lisa Banfield testifies at the Mass Casualty Commission on Friday, July 15, 2022. Photo: THE CANADIAN PRESS/Andrew Vaughan

backwards to protect the interests of one side while further traumatizing the other.

And in the background, a supposedly fearless and adversarial investigative reporter and his outlet is spending untold amounts of time, treasure and effort cheerleading a woman who knowingly lived high on the hog off the assets of proceeds of crime for 19 years.

Professor Kimber tries to make it sound like he's not trying to paint grieving families as a collective of misogynistic, money-grubbing louts by blaming the law firm that's representing them, and not the families themselves. But **Patterson Law** is acting on behalf of its clients.

Nobody that I'm aware of has detected any daylight between the families and the law firms that represent them in the inquiry or the civil action on the issue of how they would deal (or like to deal) with Lisa Banfield.

So when Kimber paints **Patterson Law** as money-grubbing pricks, keep in mind he's actually painting the families with that brush, but just doesn't wanna say that. *(Some of them are women! That would be misogynist! - ed.)*

"If you were the law firm seeking information to bolster a class action lawsuit in which you claim Banfield's participation wasn't 'limited to' providing ammunition," he writes, "you'd probably be keen to find ways to undermine her credibility about anything and everything."

"I ask again — could there be more than one agenda at play here?"

While we're discussing agendas... Just how cozy is the relationship between **James Lockyer** and **Tim Bousquet**, and what affect has that relationship had on the metric tonnage of pro-Lisa Banfield polemics emanating from **Halifax Examiner, Inc.** for the last two years?

## Also can't say enough how asexuals would be the best clients, by far.

July 20 at Alderney Landing! "So, ya wanna be a 2SLGBTQIA+ escort. If you're familiar with the straight kind it's sorta like that, but with one important difference..."



## Twidiot Eruptions

THE DAILY COURIER

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's summer listening tour's stop in the Okanagan was as silent as advertised Tuesday.

He toured a Boys and Girls Club, a packinghouse, and a fruit stand with reporters invited to take pictures and videos but forbidden in advance to ask any questions. Any shouted queries would result in police-assisted eviction from the various premises, handlers told the media.

## With apologies to Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice

Let's hear it for the Sunny Ways Listening Tour  
It's been an incredible success  
We weren't quite sure, we had a few doubts  
Would Justin win through?  
And the answer is *(I said no questions! Police! — ed.)*



Stepping Stone @SteppingSton... · 3h ...

Tomorrow is the night and we're so excited! Our training is happening on the second floor of Alderney Landing, in the Theatre Room. Thank you to **WorQshop** for partnering with us, and to [@halifaxpride](#) for supporting us! [#pride](#) [#sexworkers](#) [#harmreduction](#) [#LGBTQ](#) [#2SLGBTQIA](#)

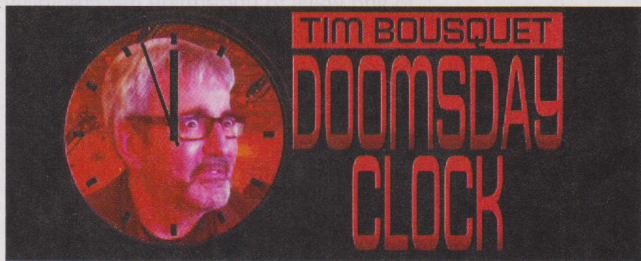
STEPPING STONE & WORQSHOP'S

2SLGBTQIA+ & SEX WORK TRAINING

JULY 20TH 6-8PM

At Alderney Landing, second floor Theatre room. Please arrive a little early to get your seats and snacks!

**He just can't help himself.**



**A messy human ponders the meaning of it all, as the Tim Bousquet Doomsday Clock ticks ever-closer to mid-night...**

Yet I often come out of the daily proceedings of the inquiry not so much angry about this or that person, but rather disappointed with humanity in general. We're a messy species, full of contradictions and pain and weird desires and strange motivations, and we're not very capable of deep thought or changing our ways. All that messiness plays out every day in eight billion little dramas across the full spectrum of tragedy and comedy, but it takes a terrible mass murder before we give it any real scrutiny.

Which is to say, I don't know what the fuck the point of this is.

There was a terrible loss of life, and too much pain to be privately contained. The hurt is enormous, and inescapable. So as messy humans do, we ritualize it with an inquiry.

And I report on it, because that's what I do. And because I'm a messy human too, some of my reporting is better and some worse. I sometimes don't give enough attention to things that deserve more attention, and sometimes give too much attention to things that deserve less. I have my own interests, my own insights and lack thereof, my own skills and inabilities.

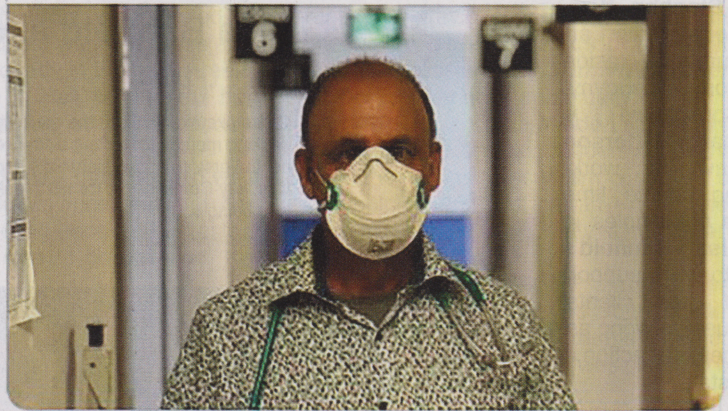
**And as an added bonus, a statement that puts to rest, once and for all, the notion that Bousquet has allowed himself to be Big Bird to James Lockyer's Carol Spinney...**

Sometimes a few stones are tossed in my direction. I won't go into this at any depth, but I will say that it's my job as an editor to make informed judgment calls about what to publish and what not to publish, and there are reasons for those decisions. I can't always make those reasons public, but I try to do this work with integrity, and it has to be left there. I won't get in a pissing match about it.

**NEWS TIPS HOTLINE:  
1-888-335-5505**

**CBC Nova Scotia @CBCNS · Jul 18**

Dartmouth doctor says awarding loyalty points for prescriptions too risky [ift.tt/SONYIFn](https://ift.tt/SONYIFn)



**People trolling this story have clearly not been to a grocery store lately. \$15 for a watermelon? With these prices, you can't afford NOT to have Hep C!**

"Through his daily medical practice at the Albro Lake Medical Clinic, Dr. Ozere heard a story about the deliberate transmission of the blood-borne virus hepatitis C... He said he heard that people were 'sharing blood.' He wasn't sure if that meant sharing needles with blood in them, or something else. 'So in the course of my practice, I heard a story about IV drug users passing hepatitis C to each other or to somebody as a favour... the favour being that you get hepatitis C.' It's considered a favour because seeking out the cure can reap rewards. Once infected, people can turn to the government to pay for the cure, he said. Prescriptions for the treatment are taken to a pharmacy where loyalty points can be earned. The points can be converted to things that can be 'traded and used'."



**Twidiot Eruptions**

**In a perfect world, our anthropomorphic Christmas tree farmer-cum-Justice Minister would have something to say about this...**

**Halifax police should release more information on encampment removal, says privacy commissioner**

After police denied access to files, CBC appealed to information and privacy commissioner

Shaina Luck · CBC News · Posted: Jul 19, 2022 5:00 AM AT | Last Updated: July 19



**...but come to think of it, in a perfect world our Justice minister probably wouldn't be an anthropomorphic Christmas tree farmer who moonlights as a wedding DJ.**



## Rick, from Page 15

Andrew scrambled through his notes.

"Sez here, Lesley Choyce, Associate Professor of Tweed Jackets, Yoga Mats, and V. Bad Poetry."

"Have the book-buying public been notified of this all-new Rick Howe best seller?"

Andrew pursed his lips.

"Nope. Not yet, Spade. That's your job."

"Why is it," I asked, "That any media hack who shook hands with the **Queen Mum** over the last 65 years feel they have to write a book about it?"

"Don't know," Andrew replied. "Human nature?"

I turned to Andrew. "So, just to recap. You want me to read the book, phone Rick Howe, then cobble together 1,500-words on this out-of-body experience? Is that correct?"

"Yes."

"Where are the grape gummies, the Russian Standard vodka and the cat food?"

"They arrived safely at Fawltly Towers at exactly 1100 hours. Exactly 35 minutes ago."

"Great. We're good to go," I chirped.

Andrew handed me the book.

"What the foook is this?" I screamed.

"It's the book," said Andrew.

"NO, Jesus H. Christ! They don't even have a pic of Rick Howe on the cover! And the colours are so drab and eye revolting! And what's this 'Foreword by **Yvonne Colbert**'? Who's she?"

"Yvonne is Rick's wife, former reporter **ATV, CBC**... swears like a sailor. In private, of course."

"Wait. Didn't Yvonne also, at one point, didn't she also shill for **Nova Scotia Power**? What self-respecting journalist would ever hop in bed with bloodsucking corporate Nova Scotia Power?"

"I dunno," Andrew replied. "**David Rodenhiser**?"

I phoned Rick Howe, as I am wont to do, at 21 minutes past the appointed hour. I find it's never a good thing to appear too eager. A fellow's gotta set the ground rules.

Rick told me he'd been expecting my call.

"So, where did the idea for the book come from?"

Rick, 68, forced into retirement by a cancer scare, told me he approached Choyce, they went back and forth, thought it was a great idea to chronicle Rick's nearly 50 years in the news racket. And, presto, here we are today, his second bestseller in 14 years.

**Behind The Mic: Five Decades Covering the News in the Maritimes** updates that original memoir, taking us to Rick's final spin on the open mic wheel at **News95.7** and his final **Rick Howe Show** in September of last year.

It tracks the **Canadian** army

brat's radio career from the wilds of small-town **New Brunswick**, to the industrial slum of **Saint John, N.B.**, to the bright lights of **Halifax**.

It's a winding road, littered with names, personalities, some G-rated newsroom hijinks, some astute observations, and some stories. Now, I'll warn you that there is some overlap from the previous Rick Howe memoir, a number of stories, like the Saint John jail fire are re-told. But, hey, that was a biggie, so no problem there.

However, the reader may, as I did, suddenly slam the book down (careful not to spill the vodka) in total disbelief of Howe's attention to detail and his extraordinary power of recall.

I asked Rick about that, only to find out that he's a very sick man. He told me he has just about every notebook he ever took to work over 40-plus years.

I could picture the pack rat Rick Howe-Yvonne Colbert master bedroom at their idyllic cottage home on the **South Shore**, lined with an assortment of colourful milk crates, and dusty ol' liquor store boxes.

"So, Rick, how long did it take you to pull this thing together?"

He told me it took awhile to leaf through his notebooks and all his scraps of paper, and to decide, as singer **Bob Seger** might sing, 'What to leave in, what to leave out'....

"How long Rick?"

"Oh, I dunno, two, three months."

What I found particularly riveting were the courtroom pages, where Rick recounts his days in the trenches covering the law courts and some very high profile, in some cases very horrific Halifax court cases.

I told Rick how much I appreciated this section. His reply, if I recall, was very gracious. Should've written it down. Silly me.

In any event, and I absolutely hate to use that god-awful CBC word "genre," but this genre of local/regional media celeb 200-page, softcover memoir rarely excites.

The norm has always been... well, here I am, these are my friends, some of them drink a lot, but everyone is so friendly and so affable, and so gosh darn great at their "craft"... hey, and did you know that Stan, here, does the best pull-my-finger jokes... fill in with a few short snappers on drunken debauchery and, there's your book. No fuss, no bother, nobody gets offended.

With that in mind, I gave Rick a list of names derived from his own ramblings and asked him:

"Who's the biggest prick you ever worked with, or for, **Mark Campbell**, **Bill Bodnarchuck**, **Chuck Bridges**, or **Richard Zurawski**?"

Howe told me Zurawski was just a bit confused and that Campbell's management style was his biggest problem. But read the book and draw your own conclusion about who was the biggest prick Rick Howe ever worked with.

Another thing this book does is further cement the lifelong friendship Rick has with that "ol' Saint John teenager with the good pipes," **Steve Murphy**. Yawn. But delighted they're still there for each other.

There's a sprinkling of insider stuff. Follow the hilarious, entangled history of **CJCH's Hot Line**, Rick's springboard into talk radio.

Rick's recollection of that nasty **CHUM** union certification, strike/lock-out thingy back all those years ago brought back fond Frank memories.

But as these local media celeb memoirs too often do, they take you to the edge and leave you hanging. For example, Rick tells us that News95.7 GM Mark Campbell was known for his "outbursts," yet we never get any delicious hint to their nature

Lefty Rick, who told me he was never a card-carrying member of the **Dippers**, does tell us how many times he's been courted by various political parties and who he thinks is hotter, **Darrell Dexter** or **Gloria McCluskey**?

Hell, I was having a great conversation with Rick when he abruptly told me he had to go with Yvonne to get their latest round of covid booster shots.

"No, no, no, just one more thing, Rick... ummm, how the hell did **Sheldon MacLeod** ever get his own talk radio show?"

"Look, I don't know, I really, really gotta go..."

"OK, bye. Best to Yvonne."

Then Andrew rang in right afterwards.

"You're going to have that book review for me by six tomorrow night, right?"

I hesitated a short spell. Picked a gummie or two off the floor.

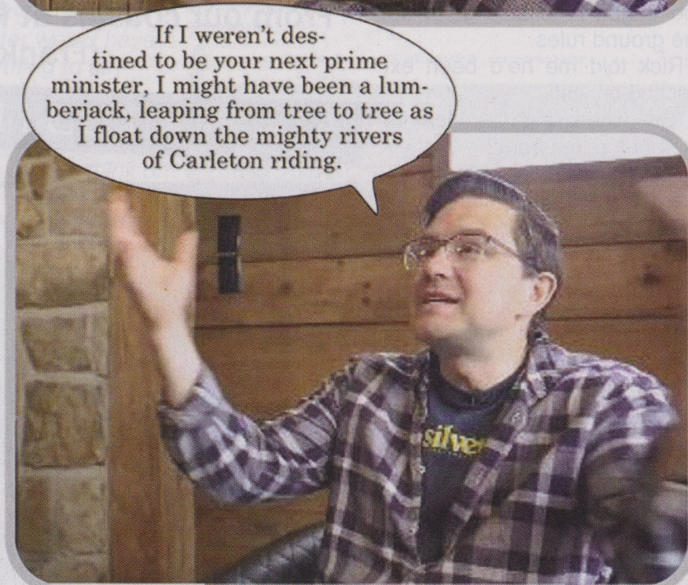
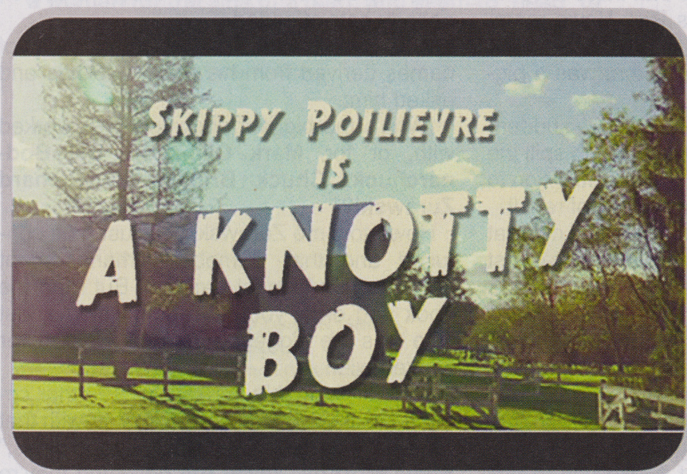
"Betch yer life on it," I responded, "In one form or another."

[tips@frankmagazine.ca](mailto:tips@frankmagazine.ca)

## From our cousins at Frank Magazine Ottawa (Frankmag.ca)



## From our cousins at Frank Magazine Ottawa (Frankmag.ca)



## From our cousins at Frank Magazine Ottawa (Frankmag.ca)



# Missives from a former Mountie to Paul Palango

The following is taken from a series of unsolicited messages from a retired **Mountie** to **Paul Palango**.

The writer's name has been withheld. We will refer to the writer as a he. We have edited the content to eliminate identifying comments. This is the second of two collections of messages from this retired Mountie — the first appeared in **Frank 866** — which address many of the known and otherwise unstated issues that bedevil the **Royal Canadian Mounted Police**. We welcome your comments.

□ □ □

## **RCMP Superintendent Darren Campbell**

One of your recent **Frank** stories raised questions about **Darren Campbell's** motives for taking notes during that meeting with **RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki** in the days following the shooting rampages.

I am not a friend, an ally or an enemy of Campbell. I viewed him as someone committed to doing a good job. I'm not so sure Campbell has an agenda. He's never struck me as that type of person or member. In my opinion and limited personal dealings with him he doesn't come across as overly political or ambitious. I believe he is apolitical. I don't believe Campbell has nor had any malicious, nefarious or malevolent intentions or any career climbing intent with his note taking. To me, Campbell's notes indicate accountability, integrity and professionalism.

One has to remember that he comes from a major crime background and was a team commander at IHIT (the **Lower Mainland Integrated Homicide Investigation Team**).

One learns that in any major crime investigative environment, you must take notes. Campbell understands that if you don't have detailed notes made contemporaneously then your recollections are going to be under scrutiny.

I'm not convinced there are stenographers for meetings such as the one admitted to. There might be a "scribe" assigned, but stenographers generally aren't members, and their idea of important notes often are the polar opposite of what a member believes are salient. In reality, everyone involved in that meeting is well versed in RCMP policy and, yes, politics.

All that to say of course that intelligent, experienced and informed members take notes. I'm sure Campbell recognized from the outset of this tragedy that he would be scrutinized heavily, and he was protecting himself, no doubt.

Well trained members with some personal awareness soon learn in the RCMP to "cover

## **FRANK LETTERS**

your ass" because everyone will have a time when someone or some group throws them under the proverbial bus.

I'm mildly concerned that no media outlet seems to have made a play for the potentially audio/video recording of this controversial meeting. Such audio/video recordings may exist, and copies may have been retained by various persons involved. It's not difficult to record audio using a phone at the very least.

Either the mainstream media such as **CBC** isn't interested in that angle or they're woefully incompetent and lack investigative motivation. I'd suggest the former because it I'd be somewhat stunned if there isn't a recording of this meeting.

## **Brenda Lucki & deception**

I don't agree with any sexism being involved or this being an attack on Brenda Lucki from Campbell. She did this to herself. She'd take notes if Campbell said something so moronic and it exposes her willingness to be water carrier for the **Liberals** to keep her job. I have no doubt she said what are reflected in his notes.

Most members I know see her as getting the job not for her qualifications but her gender. I always liked **Bev Busson** as the interim Commissioner, but she didn't want that job as she saw it as something she wouldn't accept. The Commissioner is little more than a politician masquerading as a police leader beholden to politics.

Professionalism, honesty, integrity and accountability. There are some of the core values we were taught at **Depot**, along with compassion and respect. Collectively memorized as the beloved acronym **HIPCAR** in Depot. I know recently the RCMP has been updating them to include more "buzz words." That's an aside.

Brenda Lucki is not denying she said anything like that is telling. One thing a person trained in investigative interviewing knows to ask are **BOQ's** - "behavioural observation questions." Such as, "Why should I believe you?" The honest answer from an honest person is immediate and unequivocal: "Because I'm telling the truth." "Because I didn't do it."

Why has nobody asked that question of **Bill Blair, Trudeau** or Brenda Lucki?

Deceptive answers include, "Well I don't know," or, "You don't have to believe me," or other less than believable waffles and dodges. Deflecting and trying to change the narra-

tive. Pivoting, like Blair saying he wouldn't do something like that. Same as Trudeau.

Why does the media not ask **BOQs** directly?

The opposition parties should be asking the same question in the **House of Commons**.

The reaction should be immediate, unequivocal and believable in response to the "why should I believe you?" question. There are so many **BOQs** one can ask that are also legitimate and relevant to the issue of this meeting and the notes of Campbell.

The prepared statements released by Trudeau and Blair as well as Lucki are so telling.

Have you ever heard of statement analysis? Analyzing purely written statements? It is something you should have any RCMP investigator interviewing experts as sources comment on. Written statements don't have to be long to be analyzed for veracity or to detect deception. One of the lawyers for the families should ask those hard questions. Or hopefully many of the lawyers should be asking witnesses "why should I (we) believe your testimony?"

They (Lucki, Trudeau and Blair) don't deny outright and unequivocally deny discussion of the 22 murders and the Order-in-Council of May 2020 or the most recent legislation introduced by the **Liberals** as it relates to handguns and magazine capacity. If you call it a "clip" in any firearms training environment, you'll be the subject of scorn and ridicule. It's a magazine. Facts matter.

If Brenda Lucki had any integrity she'd resign. She won't.

She protects Trudeau and Blair and they protect her. It's mutually assured destruction if one betrays the other. So they're all safe and will remain ensconced in their powerful positions.

## **RCMP leaders vs. managers**

The RCMP needs a huge change of philosophy — true leaders not managers. Careerism and post RCMP ambitions are what poison so much of the organization. Policing is no longer about preventing, disrupting and solving crime and holding people to account in the courts. It's about race, gender and identity politics. Special interest groups and too much political correctness and "woke-ism."

All people want is for a police officers to attend to a call, handle it in a satisfactory manner and address their concerns if at all possible. The police are there to protect life first and foremost.

**Continued on next page**

# HALIFAX HARBOUR SITUATION LEAVES VISITORS DISAPPOINTED

LEE-ANNE GOODMAN

In the cold to see O'Connell deliver an address that seemed at times designed to remind them for to no nation, merely a mass, some overseas country embroiled in a... world, and...



*"Oh for crying out loud! Well then why the hell did we even come here?!?"*

## Missives, from previous page

### Language & communication skills

Several years ago, on the watch I was on, we had a small group who exchanged the worst examples of the misuse, spelling and incorrect context of specific words in written reports. It was funny, but also sad, when you can't even write simple reports. You get what you recruit. When you have sub-standard members recruiting new members the results are predictable.

Most members can't write a report to save their lives in coherent English. One member wrote a memo to Crown counsel saying she was going "on maturity leave." She meant maternity leave but that isn't what she wrote.

Another member summarized something in a statement saying the witness described the design on a T-shirt as being "mid-evil."

A recovered stolen lawn mower was referred to as a "lawn more."

My favourites were one from an Inspector and a Staff Sergeant. One said in a follow-up memo to an investigator that police must "co-oberate" the witness statement.

The Inspector wrote in a memo sent to multiple detachments in the LMD that "the impotence for..." referring to a presentation from some guest speakers. Impotence versus impetus.

I had an inspector who referred to it as "incinate" conditions as opposed to inclement.

Anecdotal observations by me for sure, but also just a snapshot of the some of the issues with simple report writing.

### Chris Wortman

I worked with **Gabriel Wortman's** uncle, **Chris Wortman**. Chris is (was) a standup kind of member. Worked hard, friendly, did his job and you could trust him to be there when you needed him as backup or to help. I don't believe for a second he ever provided Gabriel Wortman with any operational uniform items, etc. Chris was never enamoured with the uniform, etc., like many members. It's just something you wear at work. You wouldn't have ever guessed Chris was a member. He didn't exude arrogance or self-importance.

### Firearms training

I personally own firearms. I grew up with them and have a healthy respect for their use in sport shooting, hunting and simple target shooting. Most members are afraid of their pistol and dread doing their AFQ (annual firearms qualification). Now "patrol carbine" training is part of basic training at Depot. When it was first rolled out, it was a five

day course. Most members dreaded being sent. So many members fail there, and have to go to remedial AFQ each year. There's no incentive to practice and it was always a fight to obtain the ammunition allotted for practising on your own at a private range. I believe they've reduced the allotment from 500 rounds (at no charge) to 250 for yearly personal practice.

### Constable Heidi Stevenson

**Heidi Stevenson** had a series of soft jobs in her career. Being street smart and hyper vigilant wanes once one is in a soft job in the RCMP. Some members don't have it to begin with and it can lead to tragedy. There are many members I worked with that I wouldn't want entrusted to fill the car with gas let alone be my cover car on a confirmed shots fired complaint.

Is that totally to blame for her death? I don't believe so, but it for sure contributed. You've noted she failed the carbine course. It is designed to be challenging, but it isn't impossible. I doubt that would've saved her. She was essentially ambushed and totally caught of guard. I believe your book is on the right track. (Wortman) likely had a radio. There's something not being revealed and more than likely numerous failures in respect just to him.

# Democracy lessons from Aristotle

The future of democracy seems increasingly uncertain. In response, many of us have looked to the fascism and communism of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as models of our possible post-democracy future.

Drawing parallels with fascism may be especially tempting. Our collective memory is replete with visual depictions — whether fictional or documentary — of the Third Reich in particular. It is the earliest history of which we have such a vast visual archive. That is highly significant for how many of us today draw historical parallels to understand the present.

But what if **Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini, Tojo** and their lesser dictator wannabes are a unique 20<sup>th</sup> century phenomenon? Not that we don't or won't have future dictators. But a better historical precedent might be the tyrants of ancient **Greece** and **Rome**. Or **Renaissance Italian** city states.

We are still tempted to define our current political crisis as a contest between democracy and authoritarianism. Joe Biden recently convened a White House summit on that very theme. This may be yet another sign of historical nostalgia preventing a clearer view of our present and future. We may have become too fixated on simple revivals of the various 20<sup>th</sup> century isms. That may be so 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Amazingly perhaps, **Aristotle**, who wrote 2,500 years ago, may offer a better guide to the various types of government we are beginning to see emerging. He sketched three kinds of rule for a state.

Monarchy, or the rule of a single individual, which is prone to decay into tyranny. Aristocracy, which is prone to decay into oligarchy. Democracy, the rule of the people, prone to decay into anarchy or mob rule. So, Aristotle seems to recognize six forms of government.

**Monarchy** is not necessarily a hereditary king or queen. Rather the rule of a single dominant or charismatic or wise person. Or someone who embodies a certain, even cartoonish, image of a particular society. Such as, for example, **Justin, Donald** or **Boris**. Or someone who displays what **Alexander Hamilton** called energy in the executive. In poli sci speak: the executive branch of government.

The perennial temptation for ambitious leaders or the executive in government is tyranny. What Aristotle probably most feared, and what we should increasingly fear now, is not so much rule by a doctrinaire ideologue. More a personal arbitrary dictatorship.

**Aristocracy**. Again, not necessarily a hereditary nobility with **Downton Abbey** houses and great estates. Rather, a lead-

ership class or a meritocracy that runs the major institutions in society. That creates and consumes most of its high culture. That sets the tone for public life and defines social norms and conventions for the rest of us. (This last role has assumed great importance in the age of **Trump**.)

Even aboriginal elders might constitute an aristocracy in Aristotle's sense. Note how elders are often described as knowledge keepers, emphasizing their curatorial role in preserving traditions. As compared to Western intellectual elites, who have in the past couple of centuries, have seen their role as evaluating inherited traditions in a more critical spirit.

The risk for any leadership class is to ossify into an oligarchy or an elite. A small privileged group who are highly placed, well connected, self-serving, self-perpetuating and increasingly out of touch. Such elites can easily provoke challenged from populist upsurges. So, talk during the Trump years about the deep state, or the permanent state or the swamp.

That has been blindingly obvious in the **U.S.** and **U.K.** Now, it may be emerging in **Canada**, most clearly in the way that the trucker convoys have resonated in the current **Conservative** leadership race. And some supporters of **Pierre Pollièvre** have started accusing media involved in current leadership debates as tools of the "**Laurentian elite**."

There was a time when only a **Stephen Harper** would have used this term to describe the **Central Canadian** elite in government, media and even business which Harper has seen as lording it over his true blue conservative pure laine Canada. (Someone has pointed out that Harper never has had close links with the **TO** based business elite.)

**Democracy**, the rule of the demos, the plebs, the people who are not the leaders or the elite. It is easy to dismiss ancient Greek and Roman democracy as irrelevant to our present concerns, since they were restricted to a small slice of the population — freeborn males. In fact, they could be quite a large slice of the population — many of them small farmers, trades people and merchants/shopkeepers. If we define democracy simply as universal suffrage and universal human rights, democracy is scarcely a century old.

In ancient Greek city states, the demos was numerous enough and unruly enough to become a problem for leaders and aristocrats — or tyrants and oligarchs. The demos had to be manipulated, flattered, bought off, or kept in their place. Ultimately, the demos could in some situations exer-

cise their collective power by taking sides in conflicts between a leader and the oligarchy. Even today, historical change often takes place when one group of the elite appeals to the demos, however they define it, to prevail over their enemies in the elite.

Our notions of democracy usually include individual rights, equality under the law, an independent judiciary, separation of powers, limits on government power. In ancient Greece or Rome, democracy meant that the demos or the plebs could enter the agora or the public square and take part in some political or judicial decisions. This could involve large numbers of people, constituting a popular assembly — or a mob, depending on your point of view.

For example, the jury that condemned Socrates to death was over 400. There cannot have been as many as 400 potential tyrants or oligarchs in ancient Athens. This was a popular assembly by Athenian standards.

When **Elon Musk** announced his offer to buy **Twitter**, he said that one of his aims was to preserve it as or restore it to a central role as part of our collective public square. Can Twitter or any social media platform be a suitable venue for anything like a truly public square?

In ancient Athens, when the demos assembled on or hear the **Acropolis**, they knew that they constituted a popular or peoples assembly as this was understood in ancient Athens. They could actually see their fellow citizens

With the major social media platforms, the size, the boundaries and the makeup of the public square is entirely hidden in the coding that underwrites notorious algorithms actually govern such platforms. Only a **Mark Zuckerberg** really knows. There is therefore no public square in social media. Just a plethora of at-times overlapping affinity groups mostly unknown to one another. And largely curated by the notorious algorithms and their coders.

Here is a crude way to define Aristotle's insights.

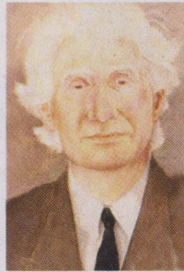
Leaders start out wanting to get things done. They end up throwing their weight around.

Elites aspire to cultivate themselves. They end up telling the rest of us how to behave.

The demos want elites to pay attention to them. They end up torching society when it does not respond to their grievances.

Faced with a crisis in democracy, many of us have turned to works like 1984, *Darkness at Noon*, *The Gulag Archipelago*, *Dr. Zhivago* or *The Captive Mind*. Maybe we should look instead to works like **Shakespeare's** *Julius Caesar* or *Richard III* or the *Henry* plays, or *I, Claudius*.

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Guy  
Pothier

## Lockyer, from Page 26

Oh, misogyny, that old woke slimeball to be hurled at any male who dare be critical of any female.

One can't help but sense the deft hand of a clever and experienced defence lawyer running up the back of Bousquet's shirt. That makes sense.

Look at what has transpired on Lockyer's watch.

Since April 2020, the RCMP and the federal and provincial governments have wrapped themselves in a single, vague and inappropriate platitude — trauma informed.

The original selling point was that this approach would prevent the surviving family members from being further traumatized by the ongoing "investigation" into the massacres.

What actually happened is much more sinister.

Lisa Banfield was coddled and protected the entire time not only by the authorities but also by Lockyer's friends in the mass media. The wily old fox had the opportunity to mainline his thoughts into the Globe and Mail, the **Toronto Star**, the CBC, CTV and **Global News** who unques-

## The witchification of Lisa Banfield

JULY 17, 2022 BY TIM BOUSQUET

9 COMMENTS



Lisa Banfield testifies at the Mass Casualty Commission on Friday, July 15, 2022. Photo: THE CANADIAN PRESS/Andrew Vaughan

There is a campaign of lies, innuendo, misogyny, and hatred directed against Lisa Banfield. The goal, apparently, is to destroy her.

tioningly lapped it up.

At the MCC, Banfield wasn't allowed to be cross examined because, as Mr. Lockyer so eloquently explained, cross examina-

tion would just lead to more conspiracy theories. That's rich. The search for the truth will only confuse matters -- it's better for everyone that Banfield spin a much-rehearsed tale without challenge. That's clearly a \$1,200-an-hour lawyer speaking.

The whole world has gone topsy-turvy. The Mass Casualty Commission, the federal and provincial governments, the RCMP and Lisa Banfield are now aligned on one side of the argument.

Meanwhile, the re-traumatized families find themselves agreeing with this magazine and other skeptics and critics.

The final irony is that the Halifax Examiner bills itself as being "independent" and "adversarial." It seems to be neither these days.

In the end, Tim Bousquet's approach to covering the Nova Scotia Massacres is, to use his words: "Dead Wrong."

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**Paul Palango is author of the best selling book 22 Murders: Investigating the massacres, cover-up and obstacles to justice in Nova Scotia (Random House).**

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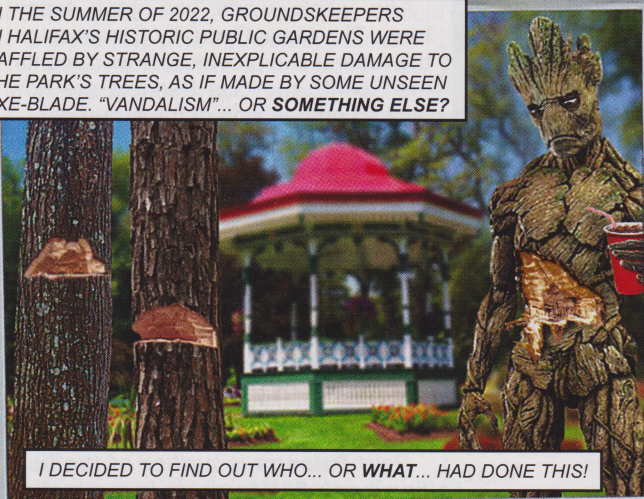
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THE FRANK  
TRUE MYSTERIES  
PODCAST  
(BUT WITH PICTURES)  
INVESTIGATES...

# THE PUBLIC GARDENS TREE CHOPPER!

IN THE SUMMER OF 2022, GROUNDSKEEPERS IN HALIFAX'S HISTORIC PUBLIC GARDENS WERE BAFFLED BY STRANGE, INEXPLICABLE DAMAGE TO THE PARK'S TREES, AS IF MADE BY SOME UNSEEN AXE-BLADE. "VANDALISM"... OR **SOMETHING ELSE?**



I DECIDED TO FIND OUT WHO... OR **WHAT...** HAD DONE THIS!

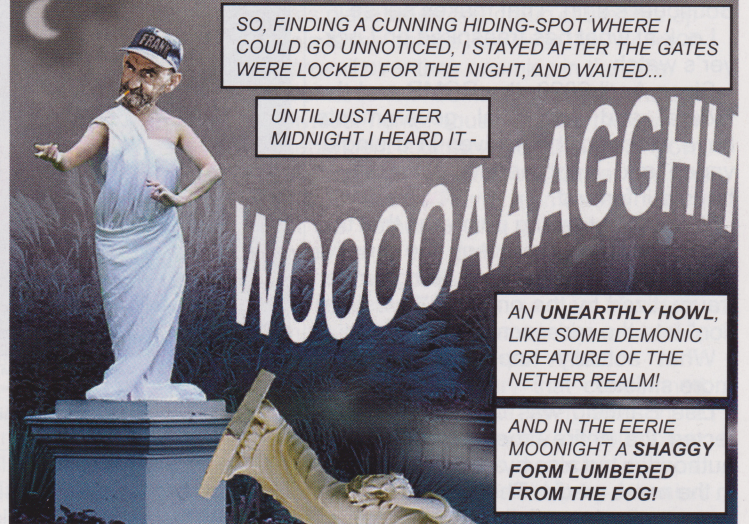
SO, FINDING A CUNNING HIDING-SPOT WHERE I COULD GO UNNOTICED, I STAYED AFTER THE GATES WERE LOCKED FOR THE NIGHT, AND WAITED...

UNTIL JUST AFTER MIDNIGHT I HEARD IT -

WOOOOAAAGGHH

AN UNEARTHLY HOWL, LIKE SOME DEMONIC CREATURE OF THE NETHER REALM!

AND IN THE EERIE MOONLIGHT A **SHAGGY FORM LUMBERED FROM THE FOG!**



GREAT SCOTT! WAS THAT...

GASP! **IAIN RANKIN!!!!**

YES - IT IS !! AFTER MY HUMILIATING FAILURE AS PREMIER AND LIBERAL LEADER, I COULD NO LONGER SHOW MY FACE IN SOCIETY...

AND SO I RETREATED TO THIS REMOTE DESOLATE WILDERNESS (ACROSS FROM SMITTY'S), WHERE I COULD **DEVOTE MYSELF TO TRAINING**, AND MAKE MYSELF A **MIGHTY AXE-WIELDING WARRIOR...**

SO THAT I MIGHT AT LAST **REGAIN MY HONOUR**, BY **SLAYING THE NIGHTMARISH MONSTER THAT HAS BEEN GRIPPING ALL OF HALIFAX IN TERROR!**



AND **HERE IT COMES!** AT LAST MY CHANCE FOR REDEMPTION IS AT HAND!

TASTE MY STEEL, **HIDEOUS OYSTER FIEND - AND DIE!!!!**

DUDE!  
DUDE!  
CHILL!

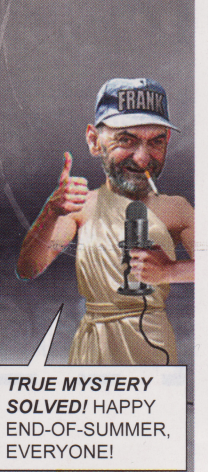
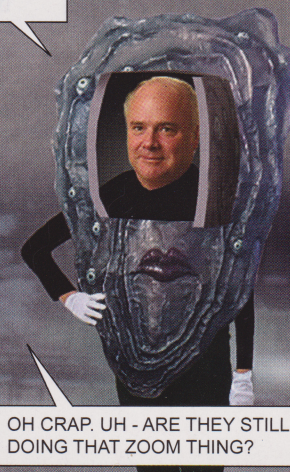


OH, HEY FRANCIS MACKENZIE! DIDN'T KNOW THAT WAS YOU.

YEAH, I'VE BEEN WEARING THIS SINCE 2006!

AND THEN THIS YEAR THEY HAD AN OYSTER FESTIVAL, WHICH WAS A NICE CO-INCIDENCE.

BUT ANYWAYS, AREN'T YOU STILL AN MLA?



**TRUE MYSTERY SOLVED!** HAPPY END-OF-SUMMER, EVERYONE!

OH CRAP. UH - ARE THEY STILL DOING THAT ZOOM THING?